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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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WITH LESS THAN 4 YEARS LEFT ON ITS LEASE

Mariana Resort presses lease renewal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» DPL: No decision yet to refer any new lease to Legislature

» Best Sunshine says Mariana Resort among those it has met with for casino site

Mariana Resort & Spa is pursuing at least a $30-million added investment for a 25-year renewal of its public land lease that's expiring in April 2018 but the need for huge tracts of lands for a $3.14-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan could be a factor whether the lease extension plan would pan out.

Gloria Cavanagh, general manager for Mariana Resort, said yesterday they have been waiting for the Department of Public Land's decision on their submitted draft proposal to renew the lease.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio separately said yesterday "no decision has been made to refer any new lease for Mariana Resort to the Legislature, nor an offer made yet to Best Sunshine for the land at Mariana Resort."

"Everything is still a work in progress," Teno-

See MARIANA on Page 4

$400K govt debt offsetting scrapped; other budget problems addressed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Conference committee eyes budget passage on Friday

Lawmakers working on a compromise $134.33-million budget bill for fiscal year 2015 emerged from a daylong meeting at almost 5pm yesterday with more than half of so-called "sticky" issues already resolved, including a decision to scrap a provision waiving Bridge Capital LLC's taxes and gaming license

See $400K on Page 4

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

Unexploded ordnance technicians from Saipan's Department of Public Safety and Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the U.S. Navy and Air Force place 1.25-lb blocks of C-4 explosive atop approximately 600 lbs of unexploded ordnances from World War II on Aug. 28, 2014, in Marpi in preparation for their demolition. During the past year, similar operations have disposed of nearly 2,600 lbs of unexploded ordnance from the island of Saipan, helping to safeguard the local population as well as illustrate best practices in proper UXO disposal for the EOD teams.

U.S. NAVY/MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON

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Parents of a girl who shot a range instructor is devastated by the tragedy.
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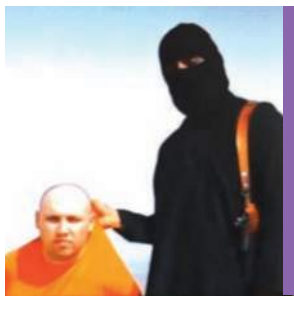

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Local

CPUC to decide on large commercial incentive rate contract today

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The long-awaited incentive rate that would encourage large customers to hook up to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. grid is up for consideration by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission today, Sept. 4.

The new rate will cover existing large commercial customers and new commercial customers.

Consultants for both CPUC and CUC had approved a modified incentive rate proposal on May 28, 2014, after long discussions on the past standby charge for commercial customers.

Both CPUC and CUC agreed to come up with a contract that would help large commercial customers experiment before officially getting into CUC's grid.

The proposed contract was given to CPUC on Aug. 2 and was reviewed by Georgetown Consulting Group. CUC executive director Alan Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* that they met on Sept. 2 to discuss the draft contract.

The proposed contract will cover large commercial customers locating, expanding, or returning their entire load to CUC's distribution system on all three islands in the CNMI.

"Customers taking service on this incentive rate or IR must agree to remain full requirements customers of CUC for the four-year duration of the IR term," the contract states.

The contract is also open to new participants for a window of four months from the time it is approved.

The contract states that a "total cumulative electric demand" under the incentive rate "shall not exceed a program cap of 20 megawatts."

Commercial customers are qualified if they have a generation capacity of 400kW or greater and generating 90 percent or more of their annual electric needs, commercial customers that expand their existing facility that results in an increase in load of 200kW or greater or expand their hotel by 75 rooms or greater, or new commercial customers with electric generation capacity of 400kW or greater.

The four-year incentive rate will provide a reduction of 8.3 cents per kWh from CUC's commercial electric base rate from the date the customer starts purchasing electricity.

"The purpose of the contract is to offer and attract self-generating businesses back onto our system because we have a lot greater reliability today and good operating practices and we need the baseload back to be in a better financial situation," Fletcher said.

Fletcher said he is not too sure if the CPUC will approve the contract or not.

"I am not sure what will happen or if it will be finalized or not. The final contract approval is expected this month or early October, but we're not too sure for now," he said.

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UOG reports record enrollment for fall 2014

Bernie Capindo, far right, a senior marketing major, takes a break between classes. UOG

Despite national trends of declining enrollment in higher education within the past five years, enrollment at the University of Guam continues to rise. UOG Admissions has reported a certified enrollment of 3,958 students for fall 2014, which is an increase of 3 percent over fall 2013 and the highest enrollment ever recorded at the University.

» Enrollment of 3,958 students represents a 3-pct. increase over fall 2013.

Credit hour production also increased by 3 percent over last fall.

"This demonstrates community confidence in the University of Guam," said Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs. "UOG continues to offer relevant, high-quality programs that meet the needs of our island and region."

Over the last few years, the university has achieved some notable milestones in enrollment and revenues. In 2012-2013, UOG achieved its highest enrollment numbers in the last 15 years and conferred nearly 500 degrees in one of the largest graduating classes in UOG history. In 2012, university revenues reached an all-time high of $104 million, driven by $50 million in grants and contracts that provide education, research, service and capacity building in areas such as disabilities, agriculture, water quality, cancer and more. Most recently, 2013-2014 saw the university's highest enrollment in 15 years.

"It is encouraging that more of our people, especially coming right out of high school, are going to the University," said Dr. Robert Underwood, UOG president. "They know that a college education prepares them for a 21st century island society. The University continues to change and grow with our newest students." ***(UOG)***

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PSS: 'Test the car before you drive it'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System aims to eventually have 500 to 600 students in their cooperative education program, with a 400-count targeted for school year 2016, according to Christopher Tenorio, interim coordinator of PSS' cooperative education program.

Tenorio spoke at yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting, where he stressed the importance of a strong relationship between the business sector and public schools as a labor workforce is built to prepare for the departure of contract workers in 2019.

"We are investing [in students] who will five years from now will be 21, 22, 23 years old, college graduate students," he said of the benefits of the program.

Tenorio described the co-op program as an "integration" of both classroom and real-world skills, with students required to work two hours at their job sites, with their instructors maintaining an "open line of communication" with employers to ensure the students are meeting performance standards.

He said the co-op first prepares students for a job interview, then students find placement and internships, signing a training agreement between student and guardian, school, and employee to work at their job site during the school year.

He stressed that he has observed a "big disconnect" in teaching high school students how to draft a résumé, write professionally, and interview well.

The co-op program, he said, will help prepare students with these skills for the workforce, and job-site experience will teach them the "intangibles."

"We understand there are certain intangibles that you learn outside the classroom…and the program really allows students to gain benefits in both worlds," he said.

He said the program is "not a job" but a class, and that the program allows companies to "test the car before you drive it."

"It minimizes the cost of on-the-job training. You are hiring these student interns and training them at a minimal cost. In fact, PSS will pay for their training using a $200 stipend," Tenorio said in his pitch to businesspeople in the audience.

According to Tenorio, the stipend is given to students who meet a 60-hour work month and have satisfactory job performance. If divided by the required 60 hours, the stipend equals $3.33 an hour.

Fred Prinz, during the question-and-answer session, asked if the MHS student he hired this summer could get his work hours translated into credits if he joined the program.

"That's something the student would have to refer to her counselor or teacher," Tenorio said, adding that he did not have the authority to do so.

In an interview after the meeting, Prinz said he paid his student employee $8 an hour, as he does not believe in minimum wage.

This year the program welcomes Saipan Southern High School, projected to have 50 or so students in the co-op, according to Tenorio, who added that Marinas High School is projected to have 150 students and Kagman High School 100 students, with 50 co-op students between high schools on Rota and Tinian.

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'Tis the season for coral bleaching

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is asking the public for assistance as they continue to monitor the reefs of the CNMI. The BECQ Marine Monitoring Team has been actively monitoring reef sites throughout the region for signs of stress and bleaching.

When corals get stressed by abnormally warm waters, they may expel the symbiotic algae living within their tissues. When this happens, the usually colorful corals appear bright white, or "bleached." Corals can survive bleaching, but if the thermal stress continues, mortality often occurs. Satellite data from NOAA's Coral Reef Watch program currently indicate that the CNMI has an increased risk for bleaching this summer and fall.

Moderate to severe bleaching has been observed across the northern islands of Maug and Pagan, as well as to the south on Guam. So far on Saipan, bleaching has been mild to absent and restricted to the reef crest. Monitoring coral bleaching and recovery is critical to the development effective management strategies for these valuable ecosystems.

If you are in the water and see bleached coral, please contact BECQ's Division of Coastal Resources Management at (670) 664-8300 to report your location. Please remember not to touch or stand on corals as these activities cause additional stress and damage to the corals. ***(BECQ)***

Guam wants to stem number of island's unlicensed drivers

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Leaders of Guam's migrant community and Guam police want to reduce the number of unlicensed drivers on the island's roads.

Unlicensed drivers caused two fatal crashes this year, the *Pacific Daily News* reported Tuesday. Police say they regularly encounter drivers without licenses when they pull people over.

Many unlicensed drivers are nationals of the Federated States of Micronesia, police say.

Micronesia Consul General Robert Ruecho said he has noticed the same thing. "Almost on a daily basis, I see someone arrested because he was driving without a license or driving while intoxicated," he said.

There needs to be an effort to inform immigrants of road laws when they come to Guam, police said.

Lt. Manny Chong suggested handing out pamphlets to people boarding planes to Guam. "A lot of these guys don't know" the laws, he said.

Ruecho has brought the issue to the highest levels of government in the Federated States of Micronesia.

He recently spoke with the federation's vice president and invited him to come to Guam for a round-table discussion on public safety issues facing the migrant population.

"There's no way he can get everybody to attend," Ruecho said. But he noted that he hopes getting several leaders together would allow them to "pass words down to the grassroots."

Ruecho said he is hoping to hold the round-table discussion around November.

"Like everybody else, we want people to do things according to the law," he said. "Our people, regardless of where they come from, should try to follow the laws of Guam."

He wants to go one step further than police's suggestion of developing a pamphlet for to give to migrants before they travel to Guam. He wants to put together an orientation class people can take before coming to Guam.

That program, Ruecho added, is already in the works.

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DHS asked anew to loosen CW work restrictions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a proposed 240-day grace period still not approved, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands have jointly asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to allow foreign workers with expired CW permits to continue to work so long as their renewal permits are under process.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that their joint letter with HANMI was sent on Tuesday.

The letter was addressed to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Leon Rodriguez. USCIS is one of DHS' component agencies.

Employers in the CNMI have long been asking DHS and USCIS to allow those whose CW renewal permits are still under process to continue to work, citing negative impacts on businesses and employees' livelihood, among other things.

DHS and USCIS have advised that employers should submit the renewal applications six months ahead of the expiration so that the permits could come out before the expiration date of the original permit.

A DHS proposal allowing a 240-day grace period to this day remains as such—a proposal.

Many CW workers have already stopped work for weeks and months because their renewal CW permits were not adjudicated yet, long after the expiration of the original permit.

"We are kindly requesting that DHS/USCIS allow a worker that has submitted a CW visa application in advance of their renewal and is pending USCIS processing and adjudication be allowed to continue to work until a final determination is made on the application," Sablan said in his report to Chamber members yesterday.

Sablan said this could be handled in much the same way USCIS handles a CW worker transfer between two different employers, wherein the worker is allowed to continue to work until the transfer is complete, "thus not denying the worker gainful employment or depriving the employer continuity in their business establishment."

The Chamber of Commerce president said he hopes to receive a favorable response to the joint request.

Sablan thanked attorney Sean Frink for drafting the letter. He also continues to encourage Chamber and HANMI members to keep providing concerns and feedback in writing for the board to address and "hopefully resolve if we are able."

Many CW permits are expiring on Dec. 31, 2014, the supposed date of the end of the transitional CW program. But U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez extended the CW program by five years or up to 2019. This allows the CNMI continued access to some 10,000 foreign workers, among other things, for five more years.

For more information and announcements about the CW-1 program, visit www.uscis.gov/cw.

Pinoy Super Dad search is a go

This December, the United Filipino Organizations will be launching another contest, this time for fathers, and UFO is now opening its doors for possible contestants.

"It's about time for our daddies, papas, *tatay* [the Philippine word for father] to show us what they've got," UFO president Annamae Adaza said.

The competition is open to all fathers with ages 25 to 45.

Deadline for accepting applicants will be Sept. 28, 2014.

Fathers will be competing in the following categories: production number, talent portion, formal wear, and question-and-answer portion.

Prizes are $800 for first place, $500 for second, $300 for third, $200 for fourth, and $100 for fifth.

"All participants will receive certificates of participation and other consolation prizes. We are also looking for donors and sponsors who wish to help out for the event," Adaza said.

For more information or to register, call Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event chair Nel Atalig at 233-3854, or event director Ernie Molina at 789-8212. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

$400K

From Page 1

fees to offset the government's $400,000 debt for non-payment of lease on La Fiesta.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), co-chairs of the six-member budget conference committee, said a budget bill is expected to pass on Friday.

If the conference committee report is finalized and adopted today and the budget bill passes the House on Friday morning and the Senate in the afternoon, the CNMI government's 2015 spending package could be on the governor's desk this weekend.

Sablan and Taimanao, in a joint interview after the meeting, said the House and Senate conferees also agreed on an additional $1.6 million for the Public School System, and $1.161 million of that is specifically for PSS to hire 35 new teachers to reduce student-teacher ratio.

The $1.161 million came from funds that the House originally appropriated for the Marianas Visitors Authority and transferred by the Senate to PSS. The remaining amount came from other sources.

The two co-chairs also said the conferees agreed to "restore" nearly $400,000 to Tinian. That amount is taken from lawmakers' operational accounts and leadership accounts.

Sablan said the House conferees agreed to this Senate amendment on the ground that it is a "restoration" and not an increase in Tinian's budget.

Taimanao and Sablan said a Senate amendment to the bill allowing for a $400,000 government debt offsetting will no longer be in the budget bill that will come before the full Legislature on Friday.

Some House members earlier said the provision is "unconstitutional."

"There are some constitutional issues, there are some policy concerns and I think we are glad that both sides have come to the conclusion that at this point, it's better to take it out," Sablan said.

Taimanao, for her part, said if this specific amendment is allowed to go through, then other entities or individuals that are owed money by the government will also start asking for the same treatment.

The Senate-added provision, offered by acting Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota), allows a waiver on any electronic gaming licensing fees, machine fees, and CNMI taxes up to $400,000 assessed against private firm Bridge Capital LLC or its assigns for fiscal year 2015 and offset it with the total amount of $400,000 that the CNMI government owes Bridge Capital for unpaid La Fiesta leases for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

The Senate amendment also allows Bridge Capital to "sell or transfer" these credit amounts to any entity that has an electronic gaming license on Saipan.

While this provision has been removed, the La Fiesta lease payment account remains at $1 instead of being zeroed out so that the government can easily transfer money to it when funds become available.

Other provisions that are expected to be tackled and finalized today are the Senate's amendment to allow certain salary increases and advance quarterly allotments, among other things.

A new budget bill has to be in place by the start of fiscal year 2015 on Oct. 1 or the government would have to partially shut down again, just like in 2010, until the Legislature passes a budget agreeable to both chambers.

But Sablan and Taimanao said a budget bill will be passed as early as Friday, three weeks ahead of the budget deadline.

Besides Taimanao and Sablan, the other conferees are House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), House floor leader Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Also in yesterday's conference committee meeting were legislative counsels and other Legislative Bureau staffers.

The conference committee meeting resumes this morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), second from left, and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), second from right, lead yesterday's meeting of the six-member bicameral committee, along with counsels and legislative staffers, to come up with a compromise version of a $134.33 million budget for fiscal year 2015. The meeting resumes today and a budget bill could be passed on Friday by both the House and Senate.

MARIANA

From Page 1

rio said.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires the Legislature's approval.

Terence Tay, chief operating officer for Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine International Ltd., said Mariana Resort was among the public land lessees and landowners they met with over possible sites for the casino resort.

"Some of the discussions that we have with different landowners or lessees are going better than others; some of them are looking better than others," Tay said, without specifically commenting on the discussion with Mariana Resort.

Cavanagh said Mariana Resort believes that a casino, if it comes to fruition on Saipan, would be good for the CNMI.

"But the best thing for the CNMI is to have the casino and Mariana Resort to [co-]exist," she said.

Mariana Resort is the first major Japanese investor in the CNMI, Cavanagh pointed out. Mariana Resort marked its 36th year in April this year.

Cavanagh said it is also important to note how the CNMI is treating its longtime foreign investors.

"Even though Japan is a crisis market today…it's always best to have a good mixture of investments and markets in the CNMI," she said.

Like other longtime foreign investors, Mariana Resort hopes that it won't be chased out of the CNMI.

"We don't owe the government taxes. We are current with our [land] lease. We have been a good corporate citizen for 36 years," Cavanagh said.

Other businesses whose public land leases are also expiring are looking at how DPL and the Legislature will treat the Mariana Resort land lease issue, because that could set the tone for their negotiations when time comes for them to also negotiate a renewal or extension of their leases.

Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said DPL's lack of a decision on the Mariana Resort land lease could be because it is giving Mariana Resort and Best Sunshine ample time to discuss the property between them. But Benavente said this is only his opinion.

Cavanagh said they are planning to invest a "minimum of $30 million" in the Mariana Resort for its proposed 25-year lease renewal.

Part of that additional investment is the addition of 100 executive rooms. Right now, Mariana Resort in Marpi has 74 hotel rooms and 50 individual cottages.

The casino law requires Best Sunshine to build a minimum of 2,000 "new" guest rooms within an eight-year period.

Cavanagh said the law is clear that the 2,000 rooms should be built from the ground up, and not just build on an existing hotel.

But Best Sunshine could go beyond the 2,000 required rooms by investing in existing hotels. Anything developed out of existing hotels, however, won't count toward the required 2,000 "new" rooms.

Tay of Best Sunshine said the casino license agreement allows for phased development of the integrated casino resort.

"If you look at the timeline, of eight years [to complete], the remaining three to four years [of Mariana Resort lease] don't go beyond eight years. It's right within the timeline we have to [meet] to finish the integrated resort," Tay said.

Again, without singling out Mariana Resort, Tay said Best Sunshine continues to talk with different landowners and lessees.

But Tay said he wants to point out that Best Sunshine is "reasonable."

"We are trying to be reasonable in terms of acquiring land from certain people. …At the end of the day, what we hope to achieve is going to benefit everyone on the island—from the locals to other foreign investors to the local businesses and to the government," he added.

Still, Best Sunshine has yet to lock in the lands it needs to build the integrated casino resort. The license agreement allows Best Sunshine "up to three development sites."

"That provision in the agreement is meant to address the challenges with the required land for the development amongst other things but it also gives us the flexibility to go beyond the minimum requirements," Tay said.

When asked about the internal deadline to acquire land, Tay said it's "last week."

Tay echoed other government officials' call for patience as they work on the development of an integrated casino resort on Saipan.

"I think we are progressing quite positively but people have to understand that land acquisition does not take place overnight. It's going to take weeks or even months and the building of an integrated resort takes years," he added.

Meanwhile, most of Best Sunshine's $30 million advance license fee payments have already been distributed by the CNMI government to retirees for their 25-percent pension covering nine months and to former and current government employees for payment of interest on their withdrawn NMI Retirement Fund defined benefit plan contributions.

Roberto's 3rd alleged victim completes testimony

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The third alleged victim completed yesterday her testimony in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of 41-year-old Raymond B. Roberto.

After the 16-year-old girl's testimony, the prosecution called to the witness stand the 19-year-old cousin of the first alleged victim. The witness will resume her testimony this morning, Thursday.

The third alleged victim recounted during cross-examination by Roberto's lead counsel, David J. Lujan, that during a Sept. 11, 2013, interview with FBI agents, she told them that Roberto picked her and two other girls in Kagman in April 2013 and brought them to the Parkville Motel in Gualo Rai, where they had a foursome.

The girl said Roberto instructed her not to tell anyone about it as he may go to jail.

The girl agreed with Lujan that during another interview with FBI agents, she talked about Roberto picking them up on a truck near the CYC Store in Kagman. She said when they reached the Capitol Hill Store, her two friends got down to buy drinks but she and Roberto stayed in the truck.

The girl said she does not know if she told FBI agents during the Aug. 12, 2013, interview about them buying drinks at the store before going to the Parkville Motel.

The girl frequently asked Lujan to repeat his questions. After replying to some questions, she would look at U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who is presiding over the trial.

The girl said she could not remember why Roberto paid each of them $100 after having sex at Parkville Motel.

She denied knowing a certain Darlene Halstead. She also denied that Halstead instructed her to get rid of her cell phone.

The girl agreed with Lujan that the U.S. government has been paying her allowance and per diem during their stay in a shelter and for testifying in the case.

After the girl's testimony, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy called to the stand the 19-year-old cousin of the first alleged victim.

Badawy asked the witness, among other things, about a typewritten note she made on Oct. 3, 2013, and her handwritten letter to "Presiding Judge" dated Jan. 2, 2014.

When asked to clarify a certain paragraph in the typewritten note, the witness said she never confided to the first alleged victim that she had sex with Roberto.

The defense did not object to the prosecution's request to admit the typewritten note as evidence.

On the handwritten letter to "Presiding Judge," the witness said it was her idea to write that letter. She said she told her mother about her letter, but apparently someone called attorney Joaquin Torres and a lawmaker came and took her letter.

Torres is Lujan's co-counsel for Roberto. Rep. Chris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) is a private investigator for the defense.

The witness has yet to explain the contents of her note and letter and who "Presiding Judge" is, as Manglona called the counsels to a sidebar discussion.

Manglona then called for a 15-minute recess. After the break at 2:58pm, Manglona informed the jurors about some unavoidable circumstances. She called a recess for the day and ordered the jurors to return today, Thursday, for the resumption of the trial at 8am.

Roberto, a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, is on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

Camacho rules CUC can sue CNMI govt over unpaid bills

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled yesterday that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can sue the CNMI government for unpaid utility bills.

Camacho said the CNMI Legislature explicitly granted CUC the power to bring lawsuits and specifically mandated that CUC bill the government for utility services.

Camacho made the ruling in his order denying the CNMI government's motion to dismiss CUC's lawsuit against the government for lack of capacity.

In separate lawsuits filed in December, CUC, through counsel Michael White, also sued the Public School System and the CNMI government to collect on unpaid utility billings.

White said PSS and the CNMI government are indebted to CUC, for utility services in the principal sum of $5,936,931.55 and $1,241,137 respectively, together with pre-judgment interest.

The CNMI government, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, moved to dismiss the lawsuit. He argued that CUC, as a government entity, lacks capacity to sue the CNMI government, CUC's creator.

CUC, through White, argued that the Legislature designed CUC to be a separate, autonomous entity, with the power to recover the expenses of utility production from utility consumers, including the government.

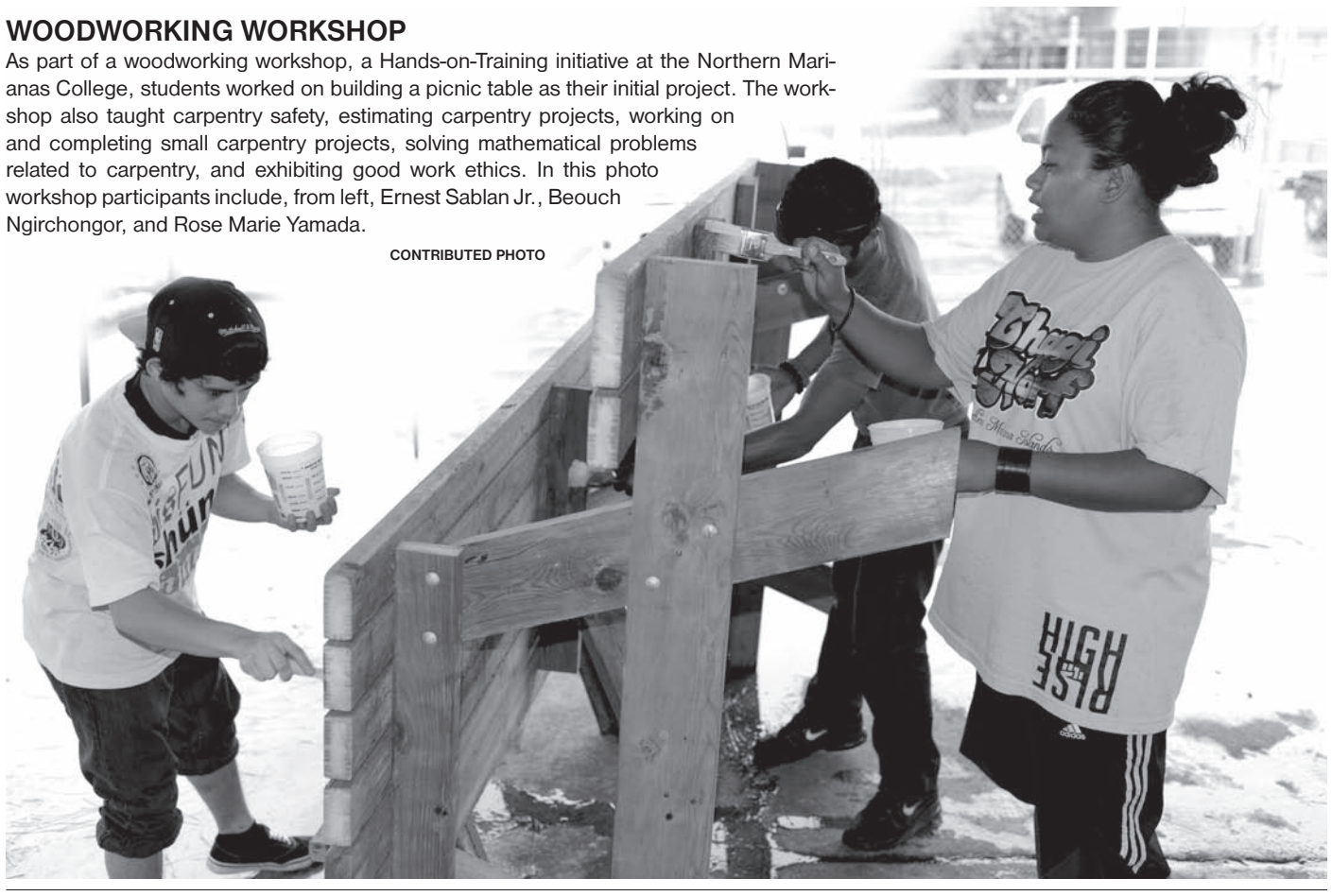
In his ruling, Camacho said the express mandate of the Legislature in the Commonwealth Code shows that CUC has the capacity to bring this claim for non-payment of utilities.

Camacho said nothing in the Commonwealth Code or the executive orders cited by the Commonwealth indicates that the government is exempt from paying utility bills, or from a claim seeking to collect the fees owed by government consumers for utilities provided by CUC.

WOODWORKING WORKSHOP

As part of a woodworking workshop, a Hands-on-Training initiative at the Northern Marianas College, students worked on building a picnic table as their initial project. The workshop also taught carpentry safety, estimating carpentry projects, working on and completing small carpentry projects, solving mathematical problems related to carpentry, and exhibiting good work ethics. In this photo workshop participants include, from left, Ernest Sablan Jr., Beouch Ngirchongor, and Rose Marie Yamada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SHEFA: Deadline for supporting docs nearing

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Applicants for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance have 26 more days to submit supporting documents, according to SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa.

Applications were due since July 1 and supporting documents are due on Sept. 30.

A total of 1,265 incomplete application packages are still pending review.

» 276 applicants approved, 53 denied so far

Rasa said that SHEFA scholars who recently graduated need to submit a copy of their degree, an official transcript, SHEFA graduate form, and Employment Verification Form. The graduate form and verification form can be downloaded at www.saipanshefa.net.

SHEFA recipients have three months after graduating or non-enrollment to submit the documents for compliance purposes. Legal action face those who fail to comply with this.

As of yesterday, Sept. 3, the total of active SHEFA applicants for fall 2014 is 1,594.

Rasa said that 276 applications are complete for review and approved for grant-in-aid awards, priority field of study awards, and/or merit incentive award.

Rasa said that 53 applications have been denied due to not meeting the grade point average requirement, repeated courses, not maintaining the number of credits at the end of their awarded term, and other reasons.

"Also, all SHEFA announcements such as dates for release of award (batches), deadlines, scholarship/employment opportunities can also be found on our Facebook page. Just search SHEFA," she said.

For more information, contact Doreen Masga of SHEFA at 233-5995 or email at contact@saipanshefa.net.

Committee to Elect for Mayor of Saipan 2014
"RAMON (RB) JOSE BLAS CAMACHO"

Birthday Dinner/Raffle Fundraising

Grand Prize: One (1) Live Cow
1st to 5th Prize: One (1) Live Pig each
6th-7th Prize: One (1) Live Goat each
8th Prize: Five (5) Live Pigeons
9th Prize: Five (5) Live Ducklings
10th to 11th Prize: Two (2) Live Ducks each

$25.00 PER TICKET
For more information, please call 234-7424 or 286-2802

Drawing date: Friday, September 5, 2014
Time: 6:00PM -10:00 PM
Place: FILCOM Pavilion Civic Center, Susupe

We're inviting you all to join us meet our hardworking candidate for Mayor of Saipan 2014. You need not to be present to win a prize.

Paid for by Committee to Elect Ramon (RB) Jose Blas Camacho for Mayor of Saipan 2014, Esterlita B. Camacho, Treasurer

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. August 20, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
  a. Blue Water Homes Return and Reallocation
  b. Direct Family Loan Supplemental
  c. Loan Modification
  d. Salary Adjustment Act
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  a. NMHC's Policies and Procedures
    1. CDBG
    2. Program and Housing Division
    3. Mortgage & Credit Division
    4. QAP 2015/16
V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMC recognizes its outstanding employees

Travilla

Aguon

Allen

Cing

Wicksman

As part of its ongoing effort to recognize and honor its employees, the Northern Marianas College recently named the recipients of its 2014 Annual PROA Employee Awards. The awards recognize employees' outstanding performance, contribution to NMC, and their commitment to student learning.

Selection of the award was made by a committee composed of staff and faculty.

The 2014 Staff Member of the Year was awarded to Raynard Travilla, who works in the External Relations Office. Raynard has been with NMC for about five years.

The 2014 Instructional Faculty of the Year was awarded to Barry Wicksman, who is an instructor in the Languages and Humanities Department at the Northern Marianas College.

The 2014 Non-instructional Faculty of the Year was awarded to Maria Aguon, who works as NMC's instructor/ program coordinator at the Tinian campus.

And finally, the Supervisor of the Year award was given you Amanda Allen, who works as NMC's Distance Learning Director. Allen also serves as Accreditation Liaison Officer.

"We are extremely proud of the PROA award recipients," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart. "These employees are all hard working individuals and their contributions to the college have been and continues to be significant."

"The entire college community joins me in congratulating them for this important achievement," added Hart.

During a campus assembly, the college also recognized the contributions of those employees who have worked at NMC for several years. Awards were handed out to employees who worked more than five, 10, 15, or 20 years.

Special recognition was given to Percy Cing, who has worked for NMC for 30 consecutive years. Cing works as an administrative officer at NMC's Tinian campus.

Employees who worked at NMC for five years or more include Johnny Aldan, Anita Camacho, Monalyn Camacho, Marcelo Gonzalez, Bill Joseph, Emiling Lisua, Jose Manibusan, Raymond Muna, Yolanda Muna, Beverly Ngirmekur, Michael Ogo, Lescheweisei Ogumoro-Uludong, Keane Jay Palacios, John Quitugua, Thomas Sharts, Irene Tudela, Claus Bier, Daisie Mae Camacho, Velma Deleon Guerrero, Frankie Eliptico, Petrus Faimau, Jennifer Fejeran-Hanson, Oscar Flores, Rose Lazaro, Karla Mareham, Jovian Almada, Helen Camacho, Rose Castro, Jang Kim, Leonard Morales, Leo Pangelinan, Barbara Merfalen, Isabel Sablan, and Colleen Villagomez.

Employees who worked for more NMC for 10 years or more are Maria Aguon, Joaquin Kiyoshi, Clarice Arriola, Lisa Lunde, Timberly Ngewakl, Constantine Papadopoulos, Patricia Coleman, Lawrence Duponcheel, Velma Mafnas, Michael Nurmi, James Deleon Guerrero, Joan Flores, Daisy Manglona-Propst, Ruthie Skang-Ngewakl, David Attao, Solita Barnes, Shirley Blas, Josephine Dela Cruz, Katherine Palacios, and Barry Wicksman.

Employees who have worked for NMC for 15 years or more include Eric Johnson, Arnold Route, Barbara Hunter, Magiel Smith, Randall Nelson, Bonnie Royal, Lorraine Cabrera, Ramon Dela Cruz, Poonsri Algaier, and Robert Suzuki.

And finally, those employees who have worked for NMC for 20 or more years are Margarita Prater, Barry Wonenberg, Lisa Hacskaylo, Gregorio Sablan, Margarita Tudela, Anemary Yoshida, Jesusa Atalig, Polly Omechelang, Elsie Cabrera, and Priscilla Cing. ***(NMC)***

GREEN GALA DONOR GREG MORETTI/MINA

With its donation of executive room stays and spa packages, the Mariana Resort and Spa recently became a major sponsor of the Green Gala, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's signature fundraising event. The event raises critical funds for important environmental and conservation projects and activities. The Gala will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Tickets are on sale for $50 can be purchase on the MINA website at www.minapacific.org or by calling 233-REEF. In the photo, from left: Bo Palacios, MINA vice chair; Gloria Cavanagh, general manager, Mariana Resort and Spa; Frankie Eliptico, MINA chairman; Becky Furey, MINA program manager; and Brooke Nevitt, MINA interim executive director.

CUC updates Chamber members on its integrated resource plan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s integrated resource plan serves as a blueprint for the public utility's future, including possible energy sources and cost cutting-measures and this was discussed by CUC executive director Alan Fletcher during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

He told Chamber members in attendance that CUC came out with the IRP to finally address years of poor financing performances that include rates that have not recovered its cost of service, cash flow remaining, volatility of prices in the oil markets, and court-ordered projects.

Fletcher said the whole reason why the IRP is needed is that it will help to review options for generation type and mix, system integrity and losses, conservation options, ownership, operating, and financing options.

"What the IRP really wants is for a long-term energy source that will be cost-efficient for many years to come. What we need to determine is to meet what really needs to be met here in the CNMI for utilities," he said.

» Stakeholder review meeting input on IRP next week

The IRP project for CUC determines financial modeling in fairly choosing among different proposals of any mix type of energy source from different proposers that "makes sense."

According to Fletcher, they are now in the early stages of identifying what request for proposal will be used so strategies could be developed and what will be more reliable.

Fletcher noted that Leidos Engineering LLC is helping CUC by comparing the proposals of different companies.

As part of the process for the IRP, Fletcher has invited stakeholders to meet with Leidos next Thursday so they can review the IRP and provide their input.

"Stakeholders will attend and review with the consultants on the IRP and get their input on what their views are in the future," Fletcher said. "We want to find a solution that is based on reliable information, mutual, and unbiased decision and involve community members for a better community endorsement that is understood by everyone and not just CUC."

Huang Shun Corporation is looking to buy ripe Noni fruits from Saipan, Tinian & Rota.
(We do not buy green Noni fruit)

SAIPAN: $0.30/lb.
Sunshine Garden
Texas Rd., Susupe (behind 360 Restaurant)
Tel: 670-235-6667/68

TINIAN: $0.25/lb.
San Jose Village
Tel: 670-433-0105

ROTA: $0.20/lb.
Contact Person: Mohammad
Tel: 285-7030/532-1614

Prices may vary due to shipping cost. All Noni fruits will be shipped to Saipan for processing.

Huang Shun Corporation is looking for
6 Farmers
Must be willing to work in Tinian. Interested applicants may visit our Tinian Office and look for Sunny or Saipan Office and look for Kelly.
For more information, please call 433-0105 or 235-6667/68.

Judge delays trial in case against Tinian Dynasty owner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing that the case is unusual and complex, the federal court has delayed the jury trial in the criminal case against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., which owns Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Tuesday vacated the Sept. 8, 2014, jury trial and set the trial for Oct. 27, 2014.

After hearing both the U.S. government and attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment, Manglona ruled that this case involves voluminous discovery materials and more time is needed to mount an effective defense. The judge said the ends of justice would be served by resetting the trial date.

The indictment charged Hong Kong Entertainment, former Tinian Dynasty VIP services manager George Que, and Tinian Dynasty former casino manager Tim Blyth, with engaging in a conspiracy to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

Que and Blyth had entered into a settlement deal with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the criminal charges against them.

At a pre-trial conference on Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Marivic David, who appeared via video teleconference, stated that both parties agreed to a short extension in order to open the motions' deadline.

Berline disclosed that the parties were engaged in settlement negotiations, that's why no motions were filed in the case. He asked the court for a short continuance of the trial.

David said it is a document intensive case with the amount of discovery materials being voluminous, and that Berline may still be reviewing the contents of these documents.

Berline agreed with David that both parties are working on trying to pare down the documents in order to make the case manageable. Berline said he needs additional time to review the documents.

David disclosed that the U.S. government had even provided Berline with a spreadsheet analysis and that it was still voluminous.

After hearing from both counsel, Manglona granted the motion to continue the trial date.

Man insists on seeing kids, arrested for violating court protection order

Police arrested a man who allegedly violated a court order when he insisted on seeing his children at the home of his former girlfriend in San Roque early Saturday morning and at night.

Joseph Jones Villagomez, 40, was arrested for contempt of court and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio allowed Villagomez to post $125 as bail, which is 10 percent of his $1,250 bail.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety sent two police officers to a residence in San Roque on Saturday at 2:07am in response to a contempt of court incident.

When the officers arrived at the residence at 2:43am, a woman showed them a copy of a Superior Court "order of protection" against her former boyfriend, Villagomez, with an expiration date of Sept. 11, 2014. The order requires Villagomez to stay away from the residence of his ex-girlfriend.

The woman said Villagomez arrived at her house at 1:50am and was knocking on the front door and demanding to see his children. The woman's brother told Villagomez to leave as it was not a good time to visit the children at that hour. Villagomez allegedly insisted but only left when told that police would be called.

Later at 8:40pm that day, DPS sent two police officers again to the same residence after Villagomez returned.

Villagomez allegedly came on a speeding vehicle and demanded to see his children. The brother of Villagomez's former girlfriend told him that the children were asleep.

Villagomez asked to see his former girlfriend, but the brother replied she was at work. The brother told him to leave or he would call the police.

Villagomez shouted profanities and said he has a right to see his children. He then sped away on his vehicle.

Officers spotted Villagomez's vehicle heading south along Chalan Pale Arnold Road and pulled him over at 10:08pm. He was then arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Coast Guard searching for man overboard near Chuuk Island

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The Coast Guard is searching for a male crewmember reported overboard from a fishing vessel approximately 170 miles southwest of Chuuk Island, Wednesday.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center received notification from the Yokohama Rescue Coordination Center about 8am Tuesday of a 34-year-old male who was reported overboard from the Japanese fishing vessel *Wakaba Maru 7*.

The crewmember, a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, was last seen at midnight. It is unknown if he was wearing a life jacket or the exact time he went overboard.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew launched from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point for a 3,625-mile flight to the search area. They are expected to arrive on scene at 4:30pm Wednesday.

Currently searching are the *Wakaba Maru 7*, a support helicopter, two sister fishing vessels, and a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion aircraft from Air Base Kadena, Japan. Coast Guard Sector Guam is coordinating the search and providing search patterns for responding vessels and aircraft.

Weather conditions on scene are winds of 10 mph and seas of 5 feet.

There are four HC-130 Hercules airplanes based on Oahu serving the Central and South Pacific. These aircraft are the primary means of conducting long-range missions and are scheduled to be replaced by the HC-130J, which will bring increased speed, range and capability to the Coast Guard mission in the Pacific. For more information on the HC-130J visit http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/programs/air.asp. ***(USCG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

7 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged seven Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Affected sites are the DPW Channel Bridge, Outer Cove Marina, American Memorial Park drainage, Puerto Rico Dump, Smiling Cove Marina, Fiesta Resort drainage, and the Garapan Fishing Dock. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Navy, Air Force training at Orote Point Flightline

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force and will conduct flight training at the Orote Point flightline on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 8 from 9pm to 11:59pm. This training is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise to include aircraft operations. ***(PR)***

Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor
Qualifications: Associate's degree in Civil Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience as a Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor or Soils/Material Engineer.
Duties: Reviews requirements of new projects and assists in preparation of proposals for clients based on the project requirements, scope of site and subsurface explorations and laboratory testing requirements. Logs subsurface soils and rocks in test borings for engineering purposes. Visits project sites and evaluate surface and probable subsurface soil and rock conditions, and other data. Supervises soils/materials technicians in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Summarizes and prepares reports of the laboratory and field testing data.

Two (2) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) or six (6) months experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or Assistant Soils/Materials Technician.
Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

One (1) Assistant Materials Supervisor
Minimum qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience in materials testing.
Duties: Performs and supervises laboratory and field testing of construction materials such as soils, aggregates, concrete and other related materials. Performs and supervises tests for design mix for concrete, bituminous mixtures and related materials. Reviews and prepares reports of laboratory and field test data of soils, aggregates, concrete, bituminous mixtures and related materials. Performs and supervises field samplings of soils, concrete, aggregates and related materials.

One (1) Core and Deep Well Drill Operator
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as Core and Deep Well Drill Operator.
Duties: Operates machine to drill wells to 500 feet deep and take samples or cores for analysis of strata. Drives or guides truck-mounted equipment into position, levels and stabilizes rig, and extends telescoping derrick. Starts and controls drilling action and lowering of well casing into well bore. Withdraws drill rod from hole and extracts core sample. Couples additional lengths of drill road as bit advances and changes drill bit as needed. Records drilling progress and geological data and assists in performing laboratory and field testing. Maintains and diagnoses drill rigs for repairs.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Qualifications: Associate's degree in Accounting (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent), two years experience as bookkeeper or accountant, and working knowledge of QuickBooks software.
Duties: Records company's business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payable, accounts receivable, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Prepares cash reconciliation, balances check books, and makes bank deposits. Performs other administrative duties, as required.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to geotesting@geoguam.com or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Operations Manager (1)
Job duties: The operations manager is responsible in planning and implementation of the overall business direction of the company. Responsible for creating production and marketing plans and making sure these plans are implemented and targets are achieved accordingly.

Job requirements: Minimum 5 years experience in managing shrimp aquaculture business. Must have the technical knowledge on shrimp farming as well as the skills necessary in business management. Must be a graduate of a 4-year degree course related to aquaculture or business management and have proven track record of managing businesses and people. The position also requires being on call 24 hours, 7 days a week. Basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems also required.

Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor (1)
Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Electrician
Job duties: Pull out, installation, repair and maintenance of water pumps, motor aerators, and other support equipment for aquaculture. Repair and maintenance of electrical installations, building, and other structures. Repair and maintenance of heavy duty generators.

Job requirements: Minimum 4 years experience in electrical and mechanical works. Related engineering degree and previous experience in aquaculture operations is an advantage and preferred. Willing to be on call 24 hours a day. Able to lift up to 75lbs.

Accountant
Job duties: Prepare, examine or analyze accounting record, financial statements or other financial reports to asses accuracy, completeness and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Report to management regarding the finances of establishments. Establish tables of accounts and design entries to proper accounts. Develop, implement, modify and document record keeping and accounting systems. Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements.

Job requirements: Accounting graduate or 4 years bachelor degree in accounting. Minimum 5 years experience in accounting. Well-versed in SAP accounting or any other accounting software. Must be skilled in use of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Strong communication and interpersonal skills, team player and with positive attitude.

Aquaculture Farmer (2)
Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

Sales Representative
Job duties: Market development, delivery, collection and other customer relations duty. Formulations of sales and marketing strategies. Market survey and analysis and competitor benchmarking.

Job requirements: Minimum experience of 4 years in the seafood retail and wholesale business. Professional driving skills required. Proficient in MS Word and Excel. With proven track record in sales specifically in market development. With excellent oral and written communication skills. Able to lift up to 60lbs.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located in Linao Ln, China Town. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Updates on the DLNR Sea Turtle Program

By TAMMY SUMMERS
NOAA AFFILIATE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College student Jerica Pialur and friends look on as a satellite-tagged green turtle begins camouflaging her egg chamber in Obyan Beach, Saipan. They decided to name her *Tiare*, after a Tahitian flower, but this turtle didn't travel to Tahiti—she was instead tracked just off of Garapan Lagoon, Saipan!

In the CNMI, the green sea turtle is currently listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, while the Hawksbill is listed as Endangered; both are protected federally and locally by law. Because they are protected, the CNMI DLNR receives funds from NOAA's Pacific Islands Regional Office to study sea turtle nesting and foraging populations.

The sea turtle research and monitoring program started in 2005. Since then our goals have been to collect scientific data to support adaptive resource management, mitigate local threats to sea turtles and their habitat, and to build community support for sea turtle conservation through education and outreach.

The program consists of four components:

■ Morning and night nest monitoring, which involves documenting non-nesting emergences and nests on six Saipan beaches, performing nest inventories to determine hatch and emergence success rates, flipper- and satellite-tagging nesting turtles at night, and taking tissue samples for genetic analysis from nesting turtles or dead hatchlings. We also perform rapid assessment nest counts on Tinian and Rota beaches once a year.

■ A nearshore (in-water) capture/tagging program at six locations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota that have been identified as potential critical habitat areas for immature green and hawksbill turtles.

■ A stranding and salvage program, which involves recovering injured, sick, or dead sea turtles, performing necropsies (animal autopsies), collecting organ tissue, skin, and bone samples for lab analysis, and carapaces for educational presentations.

■ An education and outreach program that involves performing outreach presentations at local schools, education expos, and community events. This includes our stranding response advertising campaign to let the community know that if they see a sick, dead, or injured turtle it is OK to help! They can report it by calling our stranding hotline at 287-8537, which spells CTRTLES.

CNMI sea turtle stats:

■ Over 700 immature turtles hand-captured, tagged, and released on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota waters, of which 660 were green turtles and 50 were hawksbill turtles. DNA tissue sample lab results of this study have shown that CNMI immature turtles originate from other Micronesian islands, such as Yap and Marshall Island rookeries.

■ The in-water study has also shown that CNMI's foraging turtle population is made up of 98 percent juveniles (<2.7 feet in shell length) and 2 percent adults. It takes a juvenile green turtle 30 to 35 years before it matures, reproduces, and replaces itself in the gene pool. Their protection at this life stage is critical if the population is to have a chance to recover!

■ In-water study results have also shown CNMI immature green turtles maintain a diet of 95 percent macroalgae in coral reef habitats. This translates to sea turtles providing an important ecological service in helping prevent algae overgrowth on corals, which in turn ultimately helps to support healthy fish populations!

■ In a collaborative project with NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, 11 sub-adult turtles captured in-water have been fitted with satellite transmitters in order to track their movements and dive behaviors. Out of these, so far a single hawksbill has migrated out of Tinian waters to Guam, the remainder continue to forage on local reefs.

■ We have also satellite-tagged six adult turtles on our beaches and through this study have determined that Saipan's nesting turtles are migrating from Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines, and one calls local waters its home.

From these combined satellite telemetry studies, preliminary results show that most CNMI turtles are a shared international resource; crossing political boundaries in up to 2,500-mile migrations from foraging areas to nesting areas.

■ In a different collaborative project with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, blood and scute scraping samples were taken from 23 Saipan and Tinian turtles for contaminant analysis (to detect the presence and levels of heavy metals and PFC pollutants in their bodies). This study is ongoing and pollutant levels in CNMI sea turtle results are not yet available.

■ Data results show a nesting population of from one to 15 adult green turtles nest in the CNMI in any one year. Since 2006, a total of 47 green turtles have nested on Saipan monitored beaches. Of these, 36 percent were permanently removed from the nesting population by directed take (illegal hunting).

■ This past season (2013/2014) staff documented a total of six nesting green turtles on Saipan (of these one was poached and another was nearly poached from Tank Beach) and two on Tinian (Rota numbers were unknown due to beach erosion from Typhoon Halong prior to our annual rapid assessment). A total of 42 nests were laid this season (one of which was poached on Chulu Beach, Tinian) with a lower than average hatch success rate of 69 percent and emergence success rate of 59 percent.

■ Flipper-tagged adult Saipan turtles have been found to return to nest every three to six years. Each female lays an average of seven nests in a single nesting season. Each nest contains an average of 91 eggs. Average hatch success rate is 80 percent, while average emergence success rate is 71 percent.

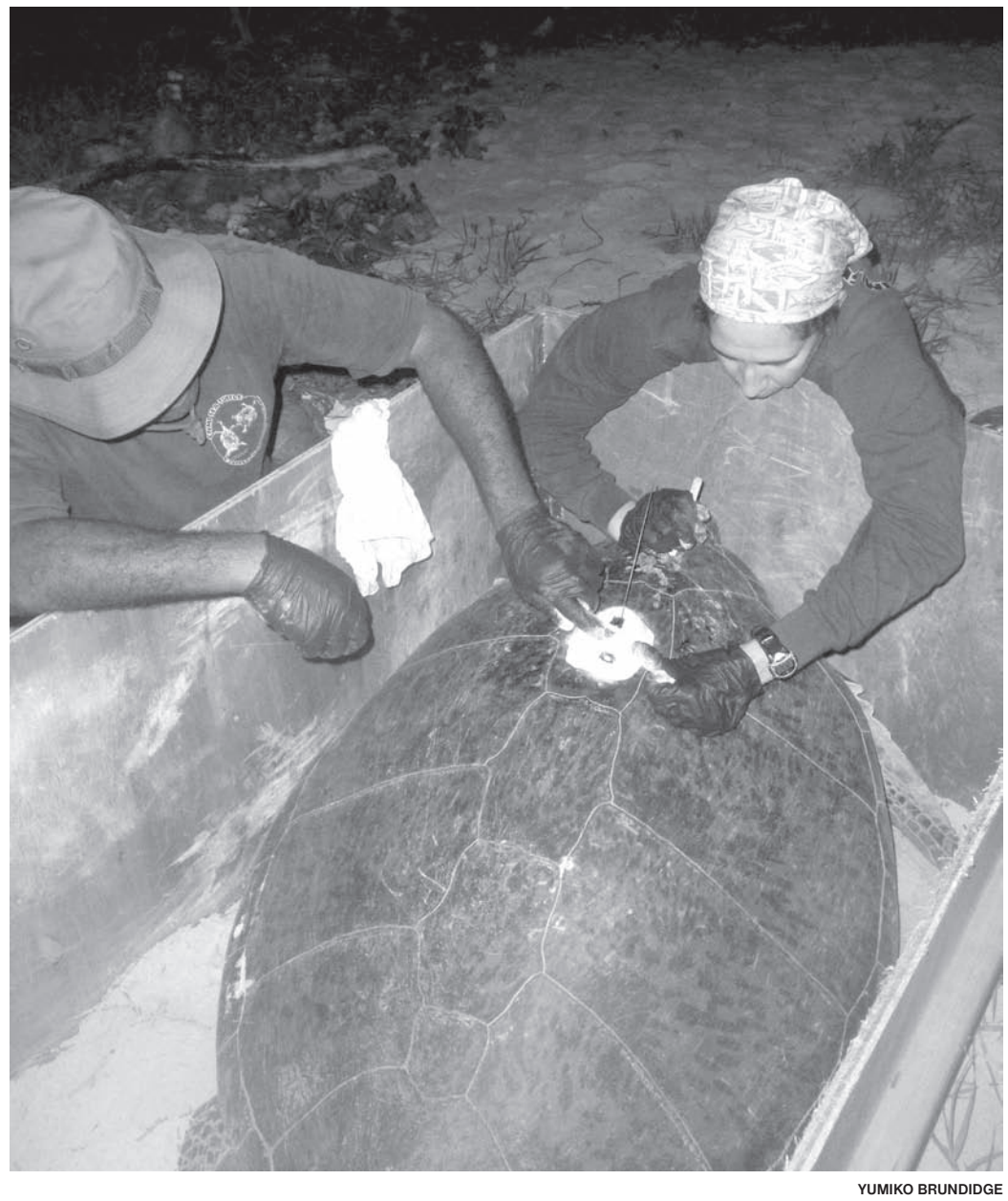
■ Stranding and salvage recoveries have totaled 69 since 2005. Of these, the cause of stranding or death was determined. Summary: boat strike/collisions, 2; marine debris/entanglement, 2; parasites/emaciation, 9; sharks/predators, 1; Unknown, 1; and directed take (illegal hunting), 54.

■ Since 2009, education outreach efforts have reached over 10,100 students, volunteers, and workshop participants at over 120 events/presentations. It has been a pleasure for our research team to participate in this shared conservation effort in hopes that future CNMI generations may be able to enjoy sea turtles!

■ If you have information regarding sea turtle poaching activities, call the NOAA Enforcement hotline at 671-472-7200, CNMI DFW Enforcement at 670-989-6095, Crime Stoppers hotline at 323-PARA, or 911. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DLNR Sea Turtle Program team members Joseph K. Ruak and Jessy Hapdei prepare to release a satellite-tagged sub-adult green turtle in Saipan waters.



YUMIKO BRUNDIDGE

DLNR Sea Turtle Program team member Jessy Hapdei and NOAA Affiliate Tammy Summers attach a satellite transmitter to a nesting green turtle. This particular turtle was nearly poached earlier in the season, but following recovery, provided critical data to further CNMI research on turtle migrations. After departing Tank Beach, she swam 2,500 miles to the Philippines and will return again in a few years to nest on Saipan.

NBG donates to the Feds Feed Families campaign

SANTA RITA, Guam—Approximately 600 lbs of food and $4,500 was donated to local nonprofit organizations as part of the Feds Feed Families Campaign on Sept. 3.

Deliveries were made to Kamalen Karidat and the Salvation Army on behalf of service members, federal employees and their families. The campaign was a voluntary effort that collected nonperishable food items and monetary donations for distribution to local food banks and nonprofit organizations.

"Everybody really stepped up on the base (to donate); it's very awesome to be a part of a community who's willing to do that, to give of themselves over and over," said Lt. Jason Turner, U.S. Naval Base Guam chaplain. "We all need a little help from time to time, and when we can recognize that, step up to that, what a fantastic movement to be a part of."

The Feds Feed Families campaign was launched in June and ended on Aug. 31. Drop boxes were located in various locations on NBG including the NEX, Charles King Fitness Center, Commissary, and chapel.

A previous donation was made in conjunction with this year's campaign. In July, about 450 lbs of food and $3,000 were donated to Kamalen Karidat and to Catholic Social Services.

Deacon Frank Tenorio, Kamalen Karidat general manager, expressed his gratitude to those who donated as part of the campaign.

"The Navy, the military…I've seen the contribution that they have done for Kamalen Karidat," he said. "I cannot say any words less than a tremendous thanksgiving for the military for caring for people like ourselves and in particular, the children of God who are less fortunate."

U.S. Naval Base Guam Chapel Sailors Lt. Jason Turner, right, and Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Richard Torres, left, deliver donations to Maria Tenorio, Kamalen Karidat assistant manager and Deacon Frank Tenorio, Kamalen Karidat general manager, following a donation at the local food bank in Hagatna on Sept. 3. SHAINA MARIE SANTOS

U.S. Naval Base Guam Chaplain Lt. Jason Turner, right, and Maria Tenorio, Kamalen Karidat assistant manager sort through donated goods in Hagatna on Sept. 3. SHAINA MARIE SANTOS

Steven Brownstein donates to 2014 Chamber Golf Classic

Major golf tournament sponsor Steven Brownstein/The Background Investigator has again generously donated a check for $5,000 to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for this year's golf classic. Proceeds of the tournament will go toward the Chamber's Education/Scholarship fund, monthly training seminars, and other Chamber programs that directly benefit the business community of Saipan.

The Chamber holds many educational events each year. The annual scholarship awards totaling $12,000 are the most public and visible educational endeavor. We also sponsor a program begun in 2008: workshops for high school juniors and seniors. This year's event was titled "Joining the Workforce" and gave students a better understanding of core abilities and issues (such as personal budgeting, balancing work and family expectations, communication skills, and résumé writing and interview tips.) These are useful life skills for anyone, whether they are heading off to college or immediately entering the workforce after graduation. Brownstein's donation to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will help fund all of these worthwhile projects.

This year's annual golf tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort with a two-person scramble format. The entry fee for players will be $100. Cash prizes include $800 for first place, $500 for second place, and $300 for third place for the three categories (Men's Low Gross, Men's Low Net (double Peoria), and Women's Low Net (double Peoria). Fabulous raffle prizes will be given away during the banquet at the end of the tournament.

Hole sponsorships, ditty bag items, and raffle prizes are already being donated by NMI Crime Stoppers, J.C. Enterprises, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Pacific SubSea, Chongs, DFS, D&Q Saipan, Bud White, Island Training Solutions, K Family Enterprises, Ernst & Young, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, IT&E, Hyatt Regency, First Hawaiian Bank, Fiesta Resort, and Takagi & Associates.

The Chamber is pleased to have the support of its generous members and looks forward to a bigger and better tournament this year! ***(SCC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steven Brownstein, fourth from left, presents his $5,000 donation to Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials. Standing from left, Alex Sablan, Chris Concepcion, Jill Arenovski, Brownstein, Greg Moretti, Kevin McCale, Ron Smith, and Velma Palacios. Seated from left, Janice Tenorio and Nola Hix

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A new swarm of migration looms on the horizon

The swarm of immigrants who came across the border this year, including more than 60,000 unaccompanied minors, could wind up paling in comparison to an immigration crisis looming on the horizon. Famine is a growing concern across Central America because of persistent drought.

The driving force behind the recent influx was a mix of economic distress, lousy living conditions and gangs terrorizing the migrants' neighborhoods. In many cases, migrants were in contact with family members already in the United States and saw this country as the quickest and easiest way to escape a life of misery.

The next wave, however, could be driven by a much more formidable force: abject hunger. Central America is in the middle of a serious two-year drought. USAID's Famine Early Warning System stated in early August that Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua are on the verge of a food crisis because of growing, widespread crop failures from scant rainfall. In some areas, rainfall is 50 percent to 75 percent below average.

The drought also is affecting Costa Rica and Panama. Panama Canal operations are on the verge of being curtailed because of declining levels on the freshwater lake that comprises the bulk of the canal route.

Elsewhere, farm output is expected to drop as much as 70 percent. Prices for staple foods like maize and beans are escalating. A coffee bean blight is adding to economic woes. Thousands of Central Americans who rely on subsistence farming no longer know where their meals will come from. The famine report warns that the need for food could cause residents to pack up and leave.

In July, Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona proposed using the threat of an aid cutoff to pressure Central American governments into cooperating to stem the flow of migrants northward. This newspaper agreed with the idea of making the threat—just to get those nations' attention. The strategy worked.

Foreign aid is most effective, however, when used not as a hammer but as an incentive for desperate people to stay put. Bumping up aid levels would help get food to those who need it now—before their hunger-driven desperation again sends them swarming to our border.

After Hurricane Mitch devastated El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in 1998, an estimated 150,000 Central Americans sought temporary protected status in the United States. That provides just a taste of the crisis that could lie ahead if Washington fails to take preventive action now.

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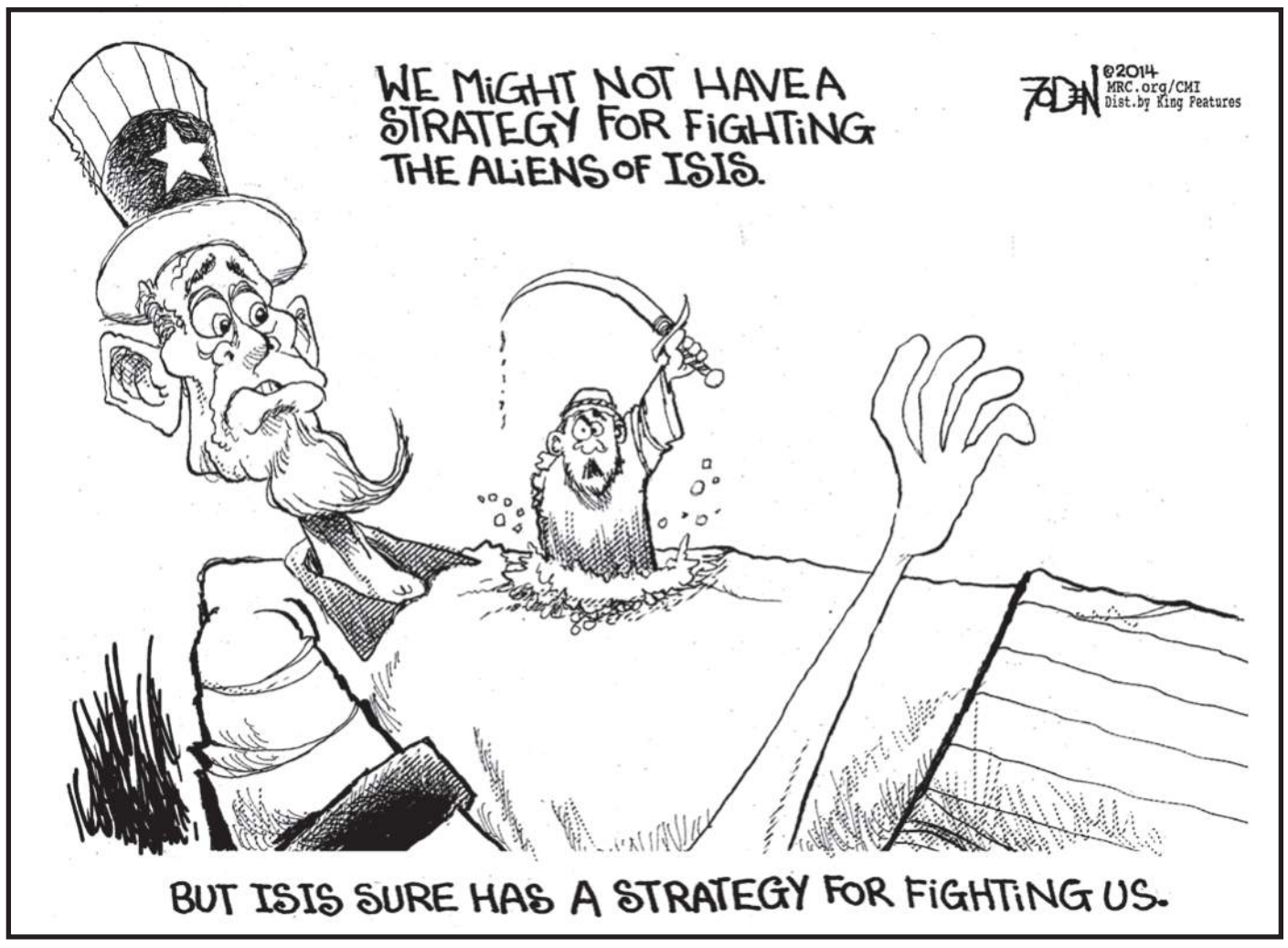
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE A STRATEGY FOR FIGHTING THE ALIENS OF ISIS.
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BUT ISIS SURE HAS A STRATEGY FOR FIGHTING US.

Ferguson: No peace without representation

By ZOLTAN HAJNAL
Los Angeles Times

Zoltan Hajnal is a professor of political science at UC San Diego and the author of America's Uneven Democracy: Race, Turnout and Representation in City Politics. Hajnal wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Before the media and the public shift their attention to the next pressing issue, we should use this opportunity to think about reforms that could prevent future Fergusons. One solution is easy to legislate and remarkably effective: increase representation.

There are many factors driving the anger in Ferguson. But the fact that African-Americans had almost no representation in city government shaped much of what happened in that Missouri suburb after the shooting death of black teenager Michael Brown by a white police officer. The figures are stark. Blacks represent two-thirds of the city population, yet the mayor, five of six City Council members, six of seven school board members and 50 of 53 police officers are not black.

Ferguson is not alone on this front. Across the nation, racial and ethnic minorities are grossly underrepresented in city government. African-Americans make up roughly 12 percent of the national population but only 4.3 percent of city councils and 2 percent of mayors. The figures for Latinos and Asian Americans are even worse.

By simply changing local electoral laws, we could radically alter who votes, who wins office and the types of policies that local governments pursue. My research shows that altering the timing of local elections, shifting from nonpartisan to partisan contests, changing from staggered to consolidated council elections and switching from at-large to district elections all have important effects on local politics.

Moving from stand-alone local elections—the system that is in place in Ferguson—to on-cycle elections that occur on the same date as statewide and national contests has the most potential to increase the number of voters. Across the nation, turnout in cities with on-cycle elections is, all else being equal, almost double that of turnout in cities with off-cycle elections.

What makes timing especially appealing as a policy lever is that there are strong incentives—in addition to increasing participation and minority representation—to switch to on-cycle elections. The primary motivation for this move usually has been cost savings. In most states, municipalities pay the entire administrative costs of stand-alone elections but only a fraction of the costs of on-cycle elections. The city of Concord, Calif., for example, estimated that the cost of running a stand-alone election would be $58,000, while an on-cycle one would be only $25,000.

But other small steps toward more inclusive local elections could have big impacts as well. By adding partisan labels to local electoral ballots, we can make it easier for voters to know what each candidate stands for. By having all council seats up for election at the same time rather than staggering them across two contests, we can make each election more meaningful by having more offices up for grabs. And by electing each council member by district or ward instead of by a citywide at-large vote, we can give minorities a real chance to elect a candidate of their own.

With a few easy steps, we could move from local elections with a tiny and generally unrepresentative electorate to elections with broad and significantly more representative participation. Given that the majority of cities have electoral institutions that tend to generate low turnout, the potential to expand participation is enormous.

All of this has critical ripple effects for minority representation in office. Higher-turnout cities elect city officials who are much more representative. My analysis shows that increasing turnout could eliminate up to a third of the underrepresentation of minorities on city councils and in mayor's offices.

Cities with higher turnout and greater minority representation tend to enact policies that are more in line with racial and ethnic minority preferences. In particular, higher turnout is associated with greater social welfare spending and greater hiring of minorities in city government.

Coming back full circle to Ferguson, my research with Jessica Trounstine of UC Merced shows that these kinds of changes can reduce frustration among blacks. Our analysis of local surveys and U.S. Census data shows that African-Americans are generally less happy than whites with the performance of their city governments. But those same surveys show that when local governments spend more on social welfare and hire more African-Americans, black dissatisfaction declines and blacks are as happy as whites with local government.

In most cities, a simple municipal ordinance would suffice to change local electoral laws. A survey in California found that more than 40 percent of cities had made a change in the timing of municipal elections in recent years. States can also get involved. In 2012, Arizona passed legislation mandating that many of its cities hold local elections that coincide with statewide contests. Citizens can also contribute. In states with direct democracy, they could put local election timing, district elections or other reforms on the statewide or local ballot.

Entrenched officeholders would probably resist such reforms. But the changes would be too powerful to be ignored. With a few small measures, we could do much to prevent future Fergusons from erupting across the country.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kutturan Natibu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sessu tana` lagse` "presetbasion" kutturan natibu. I mansañgan memegaiña gueku ke sustansiau na kinimite. Ayu ha` china i uttimon pahina `nai matuge`. Dispues de ennau man-hanau hit tatte gi konbiñienten mañana. Magpu` i nobena!

Na ti kuttura modun linala` grupon tautau? Na ti kuttura muna` gagaibali i tautau? Gi hilu` este, siña ta pega papa` haf` kutturan Chamorro fuera de kelaguen manog, sitbesa, hamburger, cellphones yan iphones? Hu tuñgu` ha` na man-ginacha` hamyu induktu `nai hu faisen haf` kutturan tanu`.

Pasensiaye ya in` atan haf` kuttura-ta kumu natibu. Para ti un` mapot, atan finenina gi familia-mu mismu. Repara haf` diariu finapos miyu kumu familia deste ke manana si Yuus.

Kau in` tutuhon ha`anen miyu gi tinayuyot kumu familia? Man-finu` Chamorro `sino Karolinas hamyu pat puru sakudidan finu` Eñglis? Kau in` ayuda famaguon miyu gi preparasion para eskuela? Kau mañaunau hamyu gi preparasion niha linala` espirituat tat kumu dottrina yan misa? Estague` siha kinalamten familia guine. Gi pisun familia `nai mau`udai kustumbren `sino kutturan natibu.

Dispues de eskuela, inna`e famaguon miyu tarehan niha che`chu` guma`? Dispues de sena, in` ayudaye famaguon leksion niha yan tinayuyot finagpu` ha`ane? Tuñgu`on i man-makreansa mauleg na famaguon sa` ni achog halom tautau man-adiñganiyon.

I Luserun Lina`la`

Diariu un` fana` ayu na hogsu` `nai tumatachu un` kilu`us. Ayu na buttu ha signifiifika pinadese yan minasapet gi todu mañgilisyanu. Halom pagyu, dilubiu yan linau fietmente tumatachu ayu na kilu`us gi chagu` hogsu`. Maseha haf` na klima, tumatachu fitme gi sagaña.

Tatfoi chinago`ña, ta usune diariamente fumalague direksioña. `An klaru finattun chatagmag siempre inina ni luseru—putiun orasion. Gi tatten uttimu hiniñgogta sige eku fino`ña i Saina gi fina` kantan nobena, "Ti bai malefa nu hamyu". Ha sañgane hit nu ennau pot aseguridat dispues ha faisen hit, "Kau guaha i palao`an `nai malefa ni patgon gi halom tiyaña?"

Estague` na puntu fumanu`e hit haf` sustansia-ta kumu tautau. I inaligau ayu na kilu`us ta petsige hi hilu` hinimidde ya maseha ta totpe pinadese, asegurau na guaha lokue` grasia gi karerata mona.

Muñga mana` mapot. Faisen-gue` kau magof un` pinipet kumu gachoñgmu, diariamente. Siña ha` guaha chinatsagamu lau mas libianu yan katma na attura `nai un` petsige satbasionmu mismu. Guiya i luserun linala`ta!

Dichu Kuestion

I finaiseña pot palao`an yan kinatgagaña neni siña lokue` tana` setbe gi bandan liñguahita. Kau magahet na un` malefan ñaihon hila` nanamu? Pot hafa na rason na un` leletke usuña gi halom gima`mu? Famaguon Iñglatera, Fransia pat Halimaña famaguon miyu? Haf` na para un` ñega fumanague ni liñguahen niha?

Sumen namase` un` patgon natibu ni titumuñgu liñguahiña. Un` displanta petmanente ginen guiya ayu na sahyan i siña umesgaihongue` mona para u kabales espirituña kumu patgon tanu`. Megaiña besis `nai mama` paya`ya` ennau na patgon, gumugugupu maseha manu. Tiha tuñgu` haf` pisun tinatteña. Poresu na hilu` aire `nai gaige ya hasan `nai tumohge gi pisu. Muñga masede este na dañu giya siha. Kreansa mauleg yan antau deste tutuhon niha!

Kutturan relihion

I finatton inestablesen relihion Katoliku tumulaika sustansiau i modun linala` natibu. Gi karera mona man-eyag hit mas antau haf` sustansian justisia. Sige mona mas guaha inadahe gi entalu` todus gi proteksion kada membron komunida.

Este na pisu fumañagu sibilisau na kinalamten natibu. Mas magof sentimenton todus piot i tropan Manachañg `nai man-masede man-gai tanu`. Sige mona mas fitme dinaña natibu gi todu asuntoña estake kayada i asun geran dos.

Megai benefisioña tradision relihion Katoliku guine siha na islas. Mauleg tagu`ot yan pasa papa` gi tautau-ta finana`guen antau na modun linala`. Yangin guaha otru sineda`mu, atan kau ti sessu kume kañgrenau hinasso-mu. Muñga mama` sabiun sinsonyan.

Balutan: Antes, mañochu hit kumu kombiten familia yan parentela gi fina` nobena yan fandañgo. Pa`gu, mofona i balutan aluminum ke chumochu. Haf` mohon na makombida hau? Para un` fan balutan neñgnkanu` pat para un` gachuñge familia umagradese tinayuyot yan fina` sena?

Todu klasen kompitensia guaha kontra attension-ta. Seha un` ratu ya un` atan i rimulinon mañglu`. Muñga hinalañg hombre i niyog malagu` ha` dumeskansa lau kada ratu ginapot ni mañglu`! Gi halom katma libianu un` akanteha haf` presisu.

■■■

Ilegña un` amiguhu na taduñg na finu` Chamorro huna` sesetbe. Huna` hassu na mas ke sisienta años ha diñgu i tanu` ya puru finu` Eñglis. Yangin ti diariu unna` setbe pues uttimoña kulan liñguahen estrañgheru `sino atbansau na finu` Latin.

I liñguahita debi finenina na umatutuhon usuña gi halom gima` familia. Kau man-ma`añau hamyu na ti u fan finu` Eñglis famaguon miyu, pat mas na`mamahlau `an timatuñgu` man-finu` Chamorro? Haf` na ansianu hau finu` otru ya ti i mismu liñguahimu?

■■■

Ilegña primuhu ginen Guam "Mattu esta lei`u (lay-you)", era "lahihu". Ha faisen i asaguaña ñgai`an halom i patgon, ineppe, "Tomoroooo!" Ai, achamahlog dos talañga-hu! Pustura sin figura! Hombre ga`choñg, na dinanche fan i finu` Chamorro sin un` latigasu lache siha na imbarasus!

Women in mathematics: Things are better, but still far from good

By FRANICS SU
Los Angeles Times

Francis Su is the Benediktsson-Karwa professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College and president-elect of the Mathematical Association of America. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Last month, Maryam Mirzakhani became the first woman in history to win a Fields Medal—"math's Nobel Prize." This is a cause for celebration, but also for reflection.

Things are definitely better than they once were for women in mathematics. In the late 18th century, Sophie Germain, who made significant contributions to number theory despite having no formal schooling, had to use a male pseudonym initially to get the attention of renowned scholars Joseph-Louis Lagrange and Carl Friedrich Gauss, who later mentored her.

Sonia Kovalevsky, a 19th century Russian mathematician now known for her work in mathematical analysis, was only allowed to audit university courses because she was a woman. Ultimately, she earned her doctorate through the private tutoring of a mentor who recognized her talent.

And in the early 20th century, German universities initially refused to hire Emmy Noether because of her gender, even though Albert Einstein spoke on her behalf. As a result, she lectured for several years, unpaid and untitled, while doing the research in symmetry and abstract algebra for which she is still known.

Women may not face such blatant impediments to doing math and science today. But Mirzakhani's achievement aside, we are still a long way from adequately recognizing the outstanding work of women.

Data gathered by the Association of Women in Science in 2010 show that women in the sciences and mathematics do not win peer recognition at a rate commensurate with their numbers in the profession. For instance, in 2010, women made up 24 percent of all tenure-track mathematics faculty at colleges and universities, but in the decade from 2001 through 2010, they won just 8.7 percent of the research and writing awards from the three major mathematical societies.

The disparity is similar across other sciences. In more than a century of Nobel Prizes in chemistry and physics, for example, only six have gone to women (and two of those were to Marie Curie).

What explains the disparity? One pernicious theory is that women are less capable of performing at the highest levels in math and science. But there are simply no data to support this belief.

For instance, one way to identify profound mathematical ability (though certainly not the only way) is to look at high school students who have won international math competitions. That group (which includes Mirzakhani) has few girls. But an in-depth study by researchers at the University of Texas and elsewhere suggested that socio-cultural factors washed out any other potential explanations for the gender gap.

Moreover, girls are succeeding at the highest levels in math at far higher rates today than in previous generations, suggesting there is nothing intrinsically nonmathematical about being female.

And girls raised in cultures with strong traditions in problem-solving competitions do much better in mathematics competitions than girls from cultures without such traditions. In the USA Math Olympiad, almost all of the girls who have won have been foreign-born, Asian-American or home schooled—groups that place a high emphasis on mathematics.

Other theories for the low rates of women winning recognition in the sciences include that they put less time into their scholarship than men, because they are more likely to prioritize family. Or that award restrictions adversely limit opportunities for women (the Fields Medal, for example, has an age limit of 40). Or that women aren't publishing enough. These pipeline issues should be studied and addressed. A likely contributing factor may be implicit bias: unconscious, unintentional judgments, research has shown, can lead employers to prefer a man over woman even when their applications are identical.

Because scientists have traditionally been male, men are more likely to fit into preconceived notions of what a scientist is. Research has shown that implicit bias can be mitigated, however, through such sound practices as appointing diverse hiring committees, having individual committee members make a list of top candidates before hearing the recommendations of other members and taking adequate time to make a decision. Such practices are sensible even when people don't believe that bias exists.

When it comes to awards, no one would argue that they should go to the undeserving. But for most kinds of recognition, there are many more deserving candidates than there are awards to confer. As an example, I recently won a national teaching award. Does that mean I am truly the best math professor in the nation? Of course not. In most cases, award winners are simply representatives who exemplify the achievement of many deserving candidates.

Still, winners are seen as role models, so it matters who wins.

Mirzakhani will now inspire many young girls in mathematics. This year's Fields medalists also included Artur Avila, the first recipient from Latin America, and Manjul Bhargava, the first of Indian descent. Such recognition is an especially promising development for the future, because a healthy diversity of deserving winners represents a community's visible commitment to encouraging its least visible members, who may one day do great things.

As Carl Friedrich Gauss once wrote to his mentee Sophie Germain about her mathematical abilities, "When a woman, because of her sex, our customs and prejudices, encounters infinitely more obstacles than men … yet overcomes these fetters and penetrates that which is most hidden, she doubtless has the most noble courage, extraordinary talent, and superior genius."

But no one should be required to have "the most noble courage" in order for their work to be recognized. In every corner of humanity, we must nurture that talent, or else our nation and world may overlook those whose discoveries could benefit and inspire us all.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming northeast around 10 mph Friday.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming northeast around 10 mph Friday.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

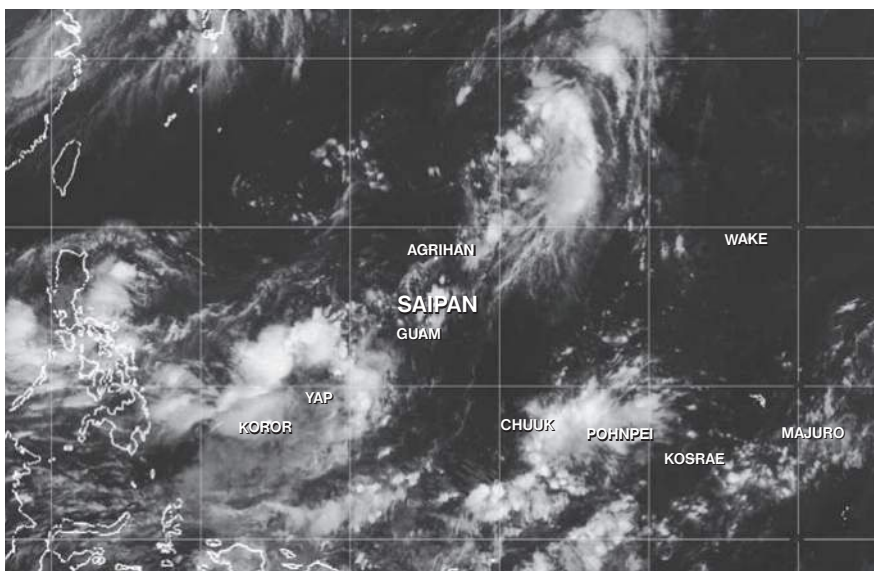
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲87	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
Paris	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼70
Rome	Thundershowers	▲81	▼65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼58
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼63
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from 14N130E to a weak circulation centered north of Yap near 14N137E then continues north of the northern CNMI to another circulation centered near 24N147E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen over Palau and around Yap between 5N and 14N from 130E to 142E and over Minami Tori Shima between 20N and 25N from 150E to 156E. Converging southwest winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Yap within 100 miles of a line from EQ136E to 5N144E. A surface trough running from south of Chuuk across Pohnpei from EQ151E to 9N161E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within 200 miles of a line from 1N149E to 11N160E. Convergent southeast winds are producing scattered showers southeast of Kosrae between 2N and 6N from 164E to 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
5:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:00 PM	12:46 AM
Friday	2:56 PM	1:45 AM
Saturday	3:52 PM	2:46 AM
Sunday	4:45 PM	3:48 AM
Monday	5:37 PM	4:50 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Home Depot probes possible credit card data breach

NEW YORK (AP)—Home Depot may be the latest retailer to suffer a major credit card data breach.

The Atlanta-based home improvement retailer told The Associated Press Tuesday that it is working with both banks and law enforcement to investigate "unusual activity" that would point to a hack.

"Protecting our customers' information is something we take extremely seriously, and we are aggressively gathering facts at this point while working to protect customers," said Paula Drake, a spokeswoman at Home Depot, declining to elaborate. She said the retailer would notify customers immediately if it confirms a breach.

Shares of Home Depot Inc. fell $1.88, or 2 percent, to close at $91.15.

Hackers have broken security walls for many retailers in recent months, including Target, grocery store chain Supervalu, P.F. Chang's and the thrift store operations of Goodwill. The rash of breaches has rattled shoppers' confidence in the security of their personal data and pushed retailers, banks and card companies to increase security by speeding the adoption of microchips into U.S. credit and debit cards.

Supports say chip cards are safer, because unlike magnetic strip cards that transfer a credit card number when they are swiped at a point-of-sale terminal, chip cards use a one-time code that moves between the chip and the retailer's register. The result is a transfer of data that is useless to anyone except the parties involved. Chip cards are also nearly impossible to copy, experts say.

The possible data breach at Home Depot was first reported by Brian Krebs of Krebs on Security, a website that focuses on cybersecurity. Krebs said multiple banks reported "evidence that Home Depot stores may be the source of a massive new batch of stolen credit and debit cards" that went on sale on the black market earlier Tuesday.

AP

This Aug. 14, 2012 file photo shows a Home Depot store in Nashville, Tenn. On Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, the home improvement retailer said that it's looking into "unusual activity" and that it's working with both banks and law enforcement after suspicions of a credit card data breach.

Some fear auto industry returning to bad habits

DETROIT (AP)—Big discounts. Six- or seven-year loans, in some cases to buyers who would have been turned down in the past.

As the auto industry strives to sustain its post-recession comeback, car companies are resorting to tactics that some experts warn will lead to trouble down the road.

Vehicle discounts have risen 5.5 percent from a year ago. More than a quarter of new buyers are choosing to lease, a historically high percentage. Auto company lending arms are making more loans to people with low credit scores. The industry is adding factory capacity. And the average price of a car keeps rising, forcing some customers to borrow for longer terms to keep payments down.

Annual auto sales in the U.S. should top 16 million for the first time in seven years. But the pent-up consumer demand that has driven sales is ebbing. Sales are predicted to grow 5.5 percent this year, the slowest pace since the financial crisis.

The big discounts and other steps eventually should help push sales above 17 million, most experts say. But Honda Motor Co. U.S. sales chief John Mendel last week scolded competitors for using "short-term" tactics such as subprime loans, 72-month terms and increased sales to rental car companies to pad their sales.

"We have no desire to go there," said Mendel, whose company's sales through July have fallen 1.3 percent, trailing the industry.

Some on Wall Street see a price to pay.

"It could be a disaster later on," says Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas. "We're clearly robbing Peter to pay Paul." He sees sales growing to an annual rate of 18 million in 2017—then sinking to 14 million a year later. That will mean factory closings, restructurings, and thousands of job cuts just for companies to break even.

It's no longer safe to recline your airplane seat

NEW YORK (AP)—Squeezed into tighter and tighter spaces, airline passengers appear to be rebelling, taking their frustrations out on other fliers.

Three U.S. flights made unscheduled landings in the past eight days after passengers got into fights over the ability to recline their seats. Disputes over a tiny bit of personal space might seem petty, but for passengers whose knees are already banging into tray tables, every inch counts.

"Seats are getting closer together," says Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants, which represents 60,000 flight attendants at 19 airlines. "We have to de-escalate conflict all the time."

There are fights over overhead bin space, legroom and where to put winter coats.

"We haven't hit the end of it," Nelson says. "The conditions continue to march in a direction that will lead to more and more conflict."

Airlines today are juggling terror warnings in Britain, the Ebola outbreak in Africa and an Icelandic volcano erupting and threatening to close down European airspace. Yet, the issue of disruptive passengers has captured the world's attention.

It's getting to the point where the pre-flight safety videos need an additional warning: Be nice to your neighbor.

The International Air Transport Association calls unruly passengers "an escalating problem," saying there was one incident for every 1,300 flights in the past three years. The trade group would not share detailed historical data to back up the assertion that this is a growing problem.

Today's flying experience is far from glamorous. Passengers wait in long lines for security screening, push and shove at the gate to be first on board, and then fight for the limited overhead bin space. They are already agitated by the time they arrive at their row and see how cramped it is.

To boost their profits, airlines have been adding more rows of seats to planes in the past few years.

Southwest and United both took away one inch from each row on certain jets to make room for six more seats. American is increasing the number of seats on its Boeing 737-800s from 150 to 160. Delta installed new, smaller toilets in its 737-900s, enabling it to squeeze in an extra four seats. And to make room for a first-class cabin with lie-flat beds on its transcontinental flights, JetBlue reduced the distance between coach seats by one inch.

Revel Casino follows Showboat, closes its doors

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Atlantic City's newest casino—and its biggest, costliest flop—went out with barely a whimper.

Revel Casino Hotel opened a little more than two years ago amid high hopes of turning around Atlantic City's struggling casino market. But the $2.4 billion resort shut down Tuesday as its casino closed one day after the hotel checked out its last guest.

The property that debuted at sunrise on April 2, 2012, with its then-president joining New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno in a blueberry smoothie toast, quietly ended operations in the early morning darkness as the last handful of gamblers, who never turned out in great enough numbers to keep Revel alive, filed out of the sleek glass tower.

It never lived up to the hype as the resort town's "Next Big Thing."

"When I started, it was promising. We had high hopes," said Liditze Diaz, a restaurant worker at Revel. "Then we started hearing rumors, but I thought, `No way this place is going to close. It's too new, too pretty.' It's hard to believe."

Revel was the second Atlantic City casino to shut down over Labor Day weekend, joining the Showboat, which closed its doors Sunday afternoon. Trump Plaza received final state approval Tuesday to close on Sept. 16, and the Atlantic Club closed in January.

Atlantic City, which started the year with 12 casinos, will have eight before summer is over. Many casino analysts and industry executives say they expect the remaining casinos to fare better financially with less competition.

"It's a ... shame," said Ruthie Fenimore of Warren, New Jersey, one of the last gamblers to play at Revel on Tuesday. "I really love this place. This place would be perfect if it was in Las Vegas. It would be right up there with Wynn. All the restaurants were awesome and HQ is the best nightclub I've ever been to in New Jersey. I remember the first time I came here, I was lying on the bed opening and closing the curtains with a remote control. It blew my mind. The bathroom was bigger than my home."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,067.56	2,002.28	4,598.19
-30.89	-1.09	+17.92
-0.18%	-0.05%	0.39%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0766	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7495	Philippine Peso	43.6506
British Pound	0.6075	Indian Rupee	60.5589	Singapore Dollar	1.2538
Canadian Dollar	1.0927	Indonesian Rupiah	11800.8	South Korean Won	1019.29
Chinese Yuan	6.1443	Japanese Yen	104.9845	Swiss Franc	0.9191
Euro	0.7614	Malaysian Ringgit	3.187	Taiwan Dollar	29.917
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2035	Thailand Baht	32.0868

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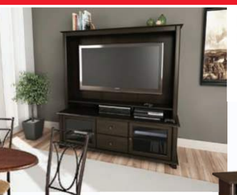

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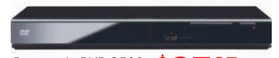

Panasonic DVD-S500 DVD Player
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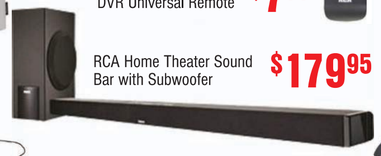

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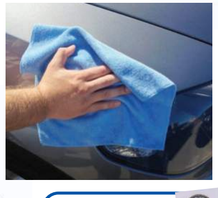

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Nation

Lawyer says family of girl with Uzi is devastated

PHOENIX (AP)—An attorney for the parents of a 9-year-old girl who accidentally killed an Arizona shooting range instructor with an Uzi said Tuesday the family is devastated by the tragedy that occurred on a brief excursion during a vacation.

The statement came as investigators released police reports and 911 recordings involving the Aug. 25 shooting of instructor Charles Vacca at the Last Stop range in White Hills, about 60 miles south of Las Vegas.

The police reports name the child's parents as Alex Gen and Alison MacLachlan and don't list the couple's hometown.

New Jersey-based lawyer Kevin Walsh said the family "prayed day and night that (Vacca) would survive his injury, and they continue to pray for his family during this terribly difficult time."

The police reports say that immediately after the shooting, the girl said she felt the gun was too much for her and had hurt her shoulder.

Her family members were focused on the girl because they thought she was injured by the gun's recoil and didn't immediately realize that Vacca had been shot until one of his colleagues ran over to him, the reports state.

The shooting set off a powerful debate over youngsters and guns, with many people wondering what sort of parents would let a child handle a submachine gun. However, neither the reports nor the statement by Walsh explains why the parents let the girl take the Uzi.

AP

In this Aug. 25, 2014 image made from video provided by the Mohave County Sheriff Department, firing-range instructor Charles Vacca, left, shows a 9-year old girl how to use an Uzi. Vacca, 39, was standing next to the girl on Monday at the Last Stop range in Arizona, south of Las Vegas, when the girl squeezed the trigger, causing the Uzi to recoil upward and shoot Vacca in the head.

The family had taken a shuttle from Las Vegas to the range. After arriving, the girl, her parents, sister and brother took a monster truck ride before heading to the shooting range.

The girl's father was the first one in the party to handle a weapon. After he fired shots, Vacca instructed the girl on how to shoot the gun, showed her a shooting stance, and helped her fire a few rounds, according to the reports.

He then stepped back and let her hold the Uzi by herself. She fired the gun, and its recoil wrenched the Uzi upward, killing Vacca with a shot to the head, the reports state.

The girl dropped the Uzi, and Vacca fell to the ground. The girl ran toward her family, who huddled around her as she held her shoulder. Another instructor rushed over to help to Vacca. The other children were then taken away from the range.

The reports describe the family as shaken by the accident.

Recordings of 911 calls show that people at the shooting range desperately tried to keep the unconscious Vacca alive as they urged 911 dispatchers to send a medical helicopter.

A dispatcher urged callers to apply pressure to Vacca's wound.

Vacca was flown to a Las Vegas hospital where he died hours later.

Prosecutors are not filing charges in the case. Arizona's workplace safety agency is investigating the death.

County prosecutors say the instructor was probably the most criminally negligent person involved in the accident for having allowed the child to hold the gun without enough training. They also said the parents and child weren't criminally culpable.

The girl's mother had video-recorded the accident on her phone.

"All right, go ahead and give me one shot," Vacca tells the girl in part of the video released by investigators. He then cheers when she fires one round at the target.

"All right full auto," Vacca says. The video, which does not show Vacca being shot, ends with a series of shots being heard.

Sam Scarmardo, the range's operator, has said the parents had signed waivers saying they understood the rules. He also said he never had a safety problem before at the range and his policy of allowing children 8 and older to fire guns under adult supervision and an instructor's watchful eye is standard industry practice, though he noted his policies are under review.

Vacca's ex-wife and children have said they harbor no ill feelings toward the girl and her family. Instead, they feel sorry for the child and want to comfort her.

ACROSS THE NATION

30 teens escape from Nashville detention center

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Thirty teens "overwhelmed" their minders at a juvenile detention center by simultaneously breaking out of four dormitories and then crawling under a weak spot in a chain-link fence. By Tuesday evening, seven were still on the run. Police caught up with some walking along roads or coming out of the woods. Some turned themselves in, including one at the guard shack Tuesday evening. And some were swiftly returned to the detention center by their own families for their own good. "He broke loose, he was gone, but he's back now," said LaWanda Knowles, whose nephew joined the escape. "I just want to know that he's here safely and he's OK—I don't want the police jumping on him, nobody beating on him or nothing." The teens—ages 14 to 19—left their rooms at the Woodland Hills Youth Development Center at about 11 p.m. Monday night and gathered in common areas. With just 16 unarmed adults to keep watch over 78 youths in 12 dormitories, the staff was "overwhelmed," said Tennessee Department of Children's Services spokesman Rob Johnson.

Police: Death of teen whose body burned was random

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A 15-year-old Indianapolis girl whose burned body was found over the weekend was likely abducted and killed by someone she didn't know, police and family members said Tuesday. Dominique Allen's death was a homicide resulting from asphyxiation, Marion County Chief Deputy Coroner Alfarena Ballew ruled Tuesday. A man walking his dog found Allen's body in his backyard on the city's near northwest side Sunday, police said. One of Allen's sisters, Shenika Poindexter, issued a stern warning to whoever was responsible during a news conference Tuesday at the site where Allen's body was found. A small makeshift wooden cross was placed next to scorch marks in the grass, and decorated with flowers and stuffed animals.

Study: Playing music helps sharpen kids' brains

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The founder of a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that provides free music lessons to low-income students from gang-ridden neighborhoods began to notice several years ago a hopeful sign: Kids were graduating high school and heading off to UCLA, Tulane and other big universities.

That's when Margaret Martin asked how the children in the Harmony Project were beating the odds.

Researchers at Northwestern University in Illinois believe that the students' music training played a role in their educational achievement, helping as Martin noticed 90 percent of them graduate from high school while 50 percent or more didn't from those same neighborhoods.

A two-year study of 44 children in the program shows that the training changes the brain in ways that make it easier for youngsters to process sounds, according to results reported in Tuesday's edition of The Journal of Neuroscience. That increased ability, the researchers say, is linked directly to improved skills in such subjects as reading and speech.

But, there is one catch: People have to actually play an instrument to get smarter. They can't just crank up the tunes on their iPod.

Nina Kraus, the study's lead researcher and director of Northwestern's auditory neuroscience laboratory, compared the difference to that of building up one's body through exercise. "I like to say to people: You're not going to get physically fit just watching sports," she said.

Kraus said studies like hers are challenging because researchers need to follow subjects for years in order to track changes in the brain. She said more and larger studies need to be done in a variety of districts around the country to "help us understand what are the most effective forms of learning and how might learning be tailored for an individual child."

The latest findings are striking a chord with supporters of such programs who say music is frequently the first cut for school boards looking to save money.

"Over and over, we've learned that children need rich, multisensory environments, and learning music sort of brings all of that into a package for them," said Mary Luehrsen of the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, which awards scholarships and research grants for the study of music, adding that the results make the point that music training should be an important part of all school curriculums.

Recovery knocks 21 fish species from watch list

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Twenty-one species of fish made the leap Tuesday off a watch list of seafood to avoid as unsustainably overfished, leaving conservationists and many fishermen and chefs celebrating the turnaround of a West Coast fishing ground declared an economic disaster area by the federal government just 14 years ago.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium upgraded the 21 species of West Coast bottom-dwelling fish known as ground fish—including rockfish, sablefish, and other workhorses of the white-fish seafood fillet market—from its "avoid" category on the Seafood Watch list, meaning the food industry and consumers now should feel free to sell and eat those fish without guilt.

The declaration marks a rebound from 2000, when commercial overfishing of ground fish off California, Oregon and Washington had depleted those and other species so badly as to earn a government designation of an economic disaster.

The related federal cut in the allowable catch of ground fish off the West Coast "was devastating to a lot of the fishing families, but it was so overfished," recalled Cindy Walter, the daughter of a professional fisherman and co-owner now of a Pacific Grove, California, restaurant specializing in sustainably harvested fish.

At the time, Walter assumed the ground-fish fishing ground "was going to be closed for a very, very long time, like most of my life," Walter said. The fact it reopened after only 14 years "is a great thing because it really shows when you have the fishermen and the NGOs and the government working ... they can turn around a fishery."

Key actions that helped the West Coast ground-fish rebound include greatly increased government monitoring and control of fishing boats' take, assigning fishing quotas to individual fishermen rather than to types of fish, and closing off some areas of the ocean to safeguard vulnerable habitat, those involved said.

In the early 1990s, 500 commercial fishing boats plied the ground-fish fishery off the West Coast, said Brad Pettinger, a trawl fisherman and executive direction of Oregon's state commission for trawl-fishing. Fellow fishermen helped buy out many of those 500 to help bring down the total to 100 fishing boats today, Pettinger said.

Asia

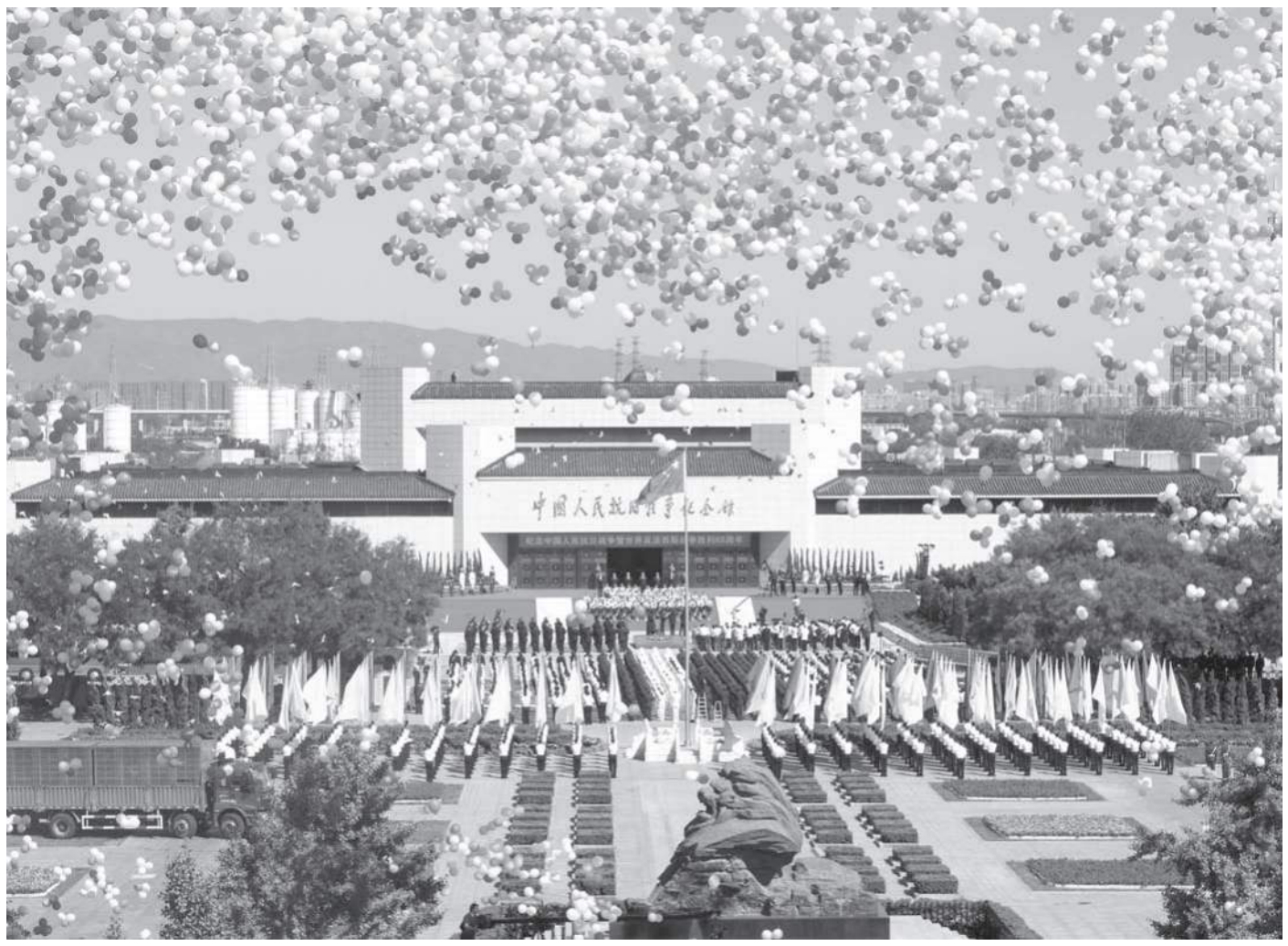
China's top leaders remember victory over Japan

BEIJING (AP)—President Xi Jinping straightened ribbons on huge bouquets and gunners fired salutes Wednesday as China commemorated Japan's World War II surrender as part of a campaign to remind the world of Tokyo's historical aggression amid worsening relations between the two countries.

It was China's first such celebration of a newly formalized historical commemoration day to mark Japan's surrender to U.S. forces in the Pacific in 1945. From now on, Sept. 3 will be marked annually in China as the Victory Day of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

Pairs of soldiers carried sedan-sized bouquets into a Beijing museum commemorating the war while solemn music played at a ceremony attended by top leaders. Inside, Xi adjusted the ribbons on the bouquets, which were placed to honor Chinese soldiers who fought against Japan after it invaded China in 1937. Afterward, he led the applause as thousands of doves of peace were released, intended to show China's wish for world peace.

Chinese anger with Japan spiked two years ago when Tokyo nationalized a group of East China Sea islands also claimed by China, and has been exacerbated since then by Japanese politicians' visits to a Tokyo shrine honoring war dead and remarks seen as minimizing Japan's war guilt.



AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, balloons are released into the air during a ceremony to mark the 69th anniversary of China's victory over Japan at the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, in Beijing Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

In response, Beijing has accused Japan of renewed militarism, and has sought to revive memories of the war. China this year created three annual commemorations aimed at focusing attention on Japan's wartime aggression and atrocities, also including a Martyrs Day on Sept. 30 and a Nanjing Massacre Victims Day on Dec. 13.

"We want to make sure that such aggression will never happen to China and to any other country," Victor Gao, a former Chinese diplomat, told state broadcaster China Central Television.

"Only by ... remembering history can we achieve this goal, because otherwise if we let the politicians in Japan, in high offices of the government, do what they want, history will be rewritten and people will have the wrong conclusion as to who was the oppressor," Gao said.

Seven decades after the war, China and Japan are now linked by billions of dollars in trade, investment and aid, but tensions have risen as both nations build up their militaries and accuse each other of growing assertiveness, including in the disputes over the islands, known as Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan.

The commemoration activities, broadcast on state television along with interviews with Chinese recollecting their experiences of the war, are expected to sharpen anti-Japanese feeling in China, where the Communist Party uses nationalism to shore up its rule.

Pakistan lawmakers back premier amid mass protests

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's lawmakers rallied behind the country's embattled prime minister Tuesday in an emergency session, even as thousands of protesters remained camped outside of parliament demanding his ouster.

Speaking for the government in the joint session of Pakistan's National Assembly and the Senate, the country's interior minister slammed the protesters demanding Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's resignation, describing them as "terrorists."

"This is a revolt against Pakistan," Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said. "They are fake revolutionaries, and they are terrorists."

Sharif called the session amid the biggest threat to his tenure since he took office a little more than a year ago in Pakistan's first democratic transfer of power since its independence in 1947.

Anti-government demonstrators led by opposition politician Imran Khan and fiery cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri converged on the capital in mid-August, demanding Sharif's ouster over alleged fraud in last year's election. Their protests turned violent this past weekend, when clashes between demonstrators and security forces killed three people and wounded some 400.

Now, thousands of protesters who broke through a fence surrounding the parliament are camped on the lawn in front of the building and have essentially taken over Islamabad's Constitution Avenue, which runs past the country's main institutions of power, including the Supreme Court and the prime minister's office.

There were no reports of violence Tuesday, though the city remains on edge after protesters briefly took Pakistan's state television broadcaster off the air Monday and rampaged through its offices.

Sharif did not address the parliamentary session, which is expected to last a week. But one by one, all the speakers threw their support behind Sharif, including the leader of the main opposition party, the Pakistan People's Party.

Acid victims' photo shoot draws attention in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A fashion photo shoot featuring five victims of acid attacks is drawing wide attention in India. While the country keeps no official statistics on acid attacks, there are regular reports in the media of attackers targeting victims to disfigure or blind them, often because of spurned sexual advances.

The 41 photos show 22-year-old Rupa and four friends laughing and striking playful poses while wearing some of her fashion designs.

"I told them to be natural. I didn't do any makeup or editing. I told them, you look beautiful and you have to be the way you are," said the photographer, Rahul Saharan, who volunteers with the Stop Acid Attacks charity and is working on a documentary about acid victims. "They are very confident, so it was not too hard for me."

The photos have been shared widely since being posted Aug. 8 on the Facebook page run by the group, and have also been picked up by TV stations and newspapers.

The joy and confidence the five women display defy the horrific stories they tell.

Rupa's face was doused with acid when she was 15 years old by a stepmother unwilling to pay her marriage expenses. The wedding was called off. The photo shoot has brought in funding that will enable her dream of opening a boutique to come true.

Laxmi, now 22, was also 15 when she was attacked by her brother's 32-year-old friend after she refused his marriage proposal. Earlier this year, U.S. first lady Michelle Obama presented her with the International Women of Courage Award for campaigning against such attacks.

Ritu, 22, was attacked by her cousin during a property dispute. Sisters Sonam, 22, and Chanchal, 17, were asleep when acid was poured over them by a group of men who had been harassing them in their village in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

In all five cases, the girls' attackers were convicted, though such crimes in India often go unpunished.

Some 1,500 acid attacks are reported worldwide every year, according to the London-based group Acid Survivors Trust International, though it says the actual number is likely higher. India passed a law last year severely limiting sales of acid, but Stop Acid Attacks said it has since counted at least 200 attacks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

House rejects Aquino impeachment

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine House of Representatives' justice committee on Tuesday rejected three impeachment complaints against President Benigno Aquino III, killing the challenges. The committee, dominated by Aquino allies, voted 54-4 against each of the complaints, declaring them insufficient in substance. The complaints were filed by mostly left-wing activists and sponsored by the House's left-wing bloc. They charged Aquino of culpable violation of the constitution, betrayal of public trust and corruption. The complaints cited Aquino's implementation of a major economic stimulus program declared partly unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and a defense cooperation agreement that gives American troops greater access to bases across the Philippines. Aquino has denied any wrongdoing.

Putin traveling to Mongolia for 5-hour visit

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin is flying to Mongolia on Wednesday for a working visit amid soaring tensions with Washington and NATO over a Kremlin-backed offensive in Ukraine. Putin is due to arrive in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator for afternoon talks with Mongolian President Elbegdorj Tsakhia. The two are to oversee the signing of trade and transport agreements before Putin departs at 6 p.m. (1000 GMT). Moscow firmly controlled Mongolia during the Cold War and retains considerable influence over this vast landlocked nation sandwiched between Russia and China. Mongolia relies on Russia for almost all of its gasoline and diesel fuel and much of its electricity.

Speeding truck overturns, kills 10 in India

New Delhi (AP)—Police say a speeding truck has overturned and crushed to death 10 people, including seven children, sleeping on a sidewalk in northern India. Police spokesman Suresh Srivastava says the accident occurred early Wednesday near a construction site in Kanpur, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state. The victims were workers and their family members, Srivastava said Wednesday. Two critically injured people have been hospitalized.

World

Second Syria beheading raises stakes for US

BEIRUT (AP)—Islamic State extremists have released a video purportedly showing the beheading of a second American journalist, Steven Sotloff, and warned President Barack Obama that continuing airstrikes against the group in Iraq will be met with the killing of more Western captives.

The footage—depicting what the U.S. called a sickening act of brutality—was posted late Tuesday, two weeks after the release of video showing the killing of James Foley and just days after Sotloff's mother pleaded for his life.

Barak Barfi, a spokesman for the family, said the Sotloffs had seen the video but that authorities have not established its authenticity. "The family knows of this horrific tragedy and is grieving privately. There will be no public comment from the family during this difficult time," Barfi said.

Sotloff, a 31-year-old Miami-area native who freelanced for Time and Foreign Policy magazines, vanished in Syria in August 2013 and was not seen again until he appeared in a video released last month that showed Foley's beheading. Dressed in an orange jumpsuit against an arid Syrian landscape, Sotloff was threatened in that video with death unless the U.S. stopped airstrikes on the Islamic State.

In the video distributed Tuesday and titled "A Second Message to America," Sotloff appears in a similar jumpsuit before he is apparently beheaded by a fighter with the Islamic State, the extremist group that has conquered wide swaths of territory across Syria and Iraq and declared itself a caliphate.

In the video, the organization threatens to kill another hostage, this one identified as a British citizen.

Britain and France called the killing "barbaric." British Prime Minister David Cameron said in a statement that he would chair an emergency response meeting with his Cabinet on Wednesday to review the latest developments.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said U.S. intelligence analysts will work as quickly as possible to determine if the video is authentic.

"If the video is genuine, we are sickened by this brutal act, taking the life of another innocent American citizen," Psaki said. "Our hearts go out to the Sotloff family."

Psaki said it is believed that "a few" Americans are still being held by the Islamic State group. Psaki would not give any specifics, but one is a 26-year-old woman kidnapped while doing humanitarian aid work in Syria, according to a family representative who asked that the hostage not be identified out of fear for her safety.

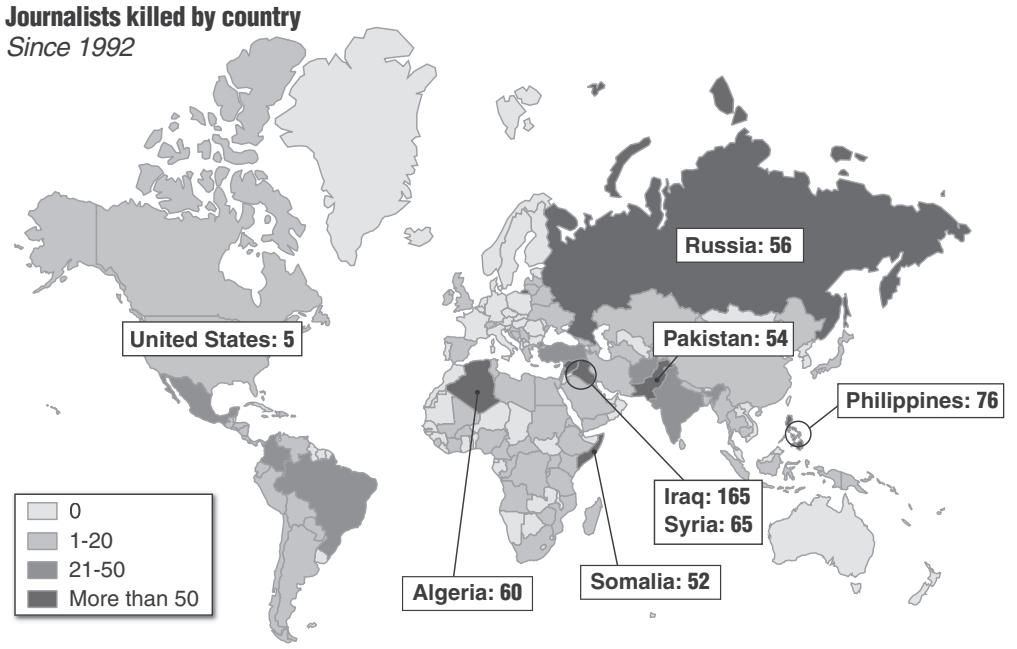
AP

In this file still image from an undated video released by Islamic State militants on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2014, purports to show journalist Steven Sotloff being held by the militant group.

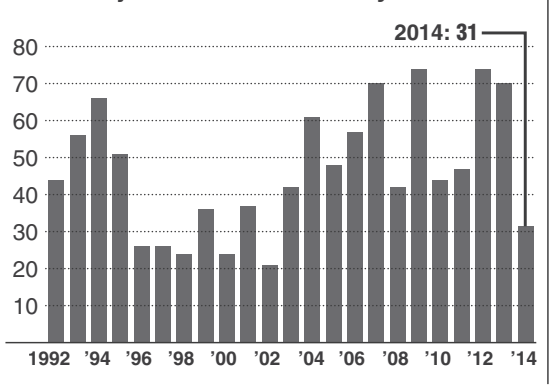
Journalists killed in action

Since 1992, when the Committee to Protect Journalists started tracking murders, 1,070 journalists have been killed in connection with their work, either being specifically targeted or taking fire while working in a dangerous area.

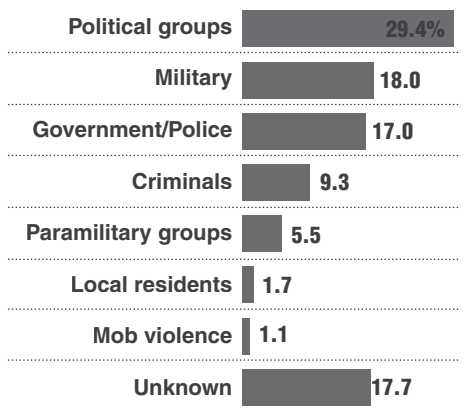
Journalists killed by country
Since 1992



Number of journalists killed annually



Groups responsible for killing journalists



Source: Committee to Protect Journalists
Graphic: Tyler Davis

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Group says world is losing battle against Ebola

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The international group Doctors Without Borders warned Tuesday that the world is losing the battle against Ebola and lamented that treatment centers in West Africa have been "reduced to places where people go to die alone."

In separate remarks after a United Nations meeting on the crisis, the World Health Organization chief said everyone involved had underestimated the outbreak, which has now killed more than 1,500 people in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. U.N. officials implored governments worldwide to send medical workers and material contributions.

Meanwhile in Liberia, a missionary organization announced that another American doctor has become infected.

Doctors Without Borders, which has treated more than 1,000 Ebola patients in West Africa since March, is completely overwhelmed by the disease, said Joanne Liu, the organization's president. She called on other countries to contribute civilian and military medical personnel familiar with biological disasters.

"Six months into the worst Ebola epidemic in history, the world is losing the battle to contain it," Liu said at a U.N. forum on the outbreak. "Ebola treatment centers are reduced to places where people go to die alone, where little more than palliative care is offered."

In Sierra Leone, she said, infectious bodies are rotting in the streets. Liberia had to build a new crematorium instead of new Ebola care centers.

At the U.N. meeting, WHO Director Margaret Chan thanked countries that have helped but said: "We need more from you. And we also need those countries that have not come on board."

Later at a news conference, she warned that the outbreak will get worse before it gets better.

President Barack Obama urged West Africans on Tuesday to wear gloves and masks when caring for Ebola patients or burying anyone who died of the disease. He discouraged the burial practice of directly touching the body of Ebola victims, which is one way the disease has been spreading.

"You can respect your traditions and honor your loved ones without risking the lives of the living," Obama said in the brief video message.

Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the situation is now the world's first Ebola epidemic, given how widely it is spreading.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukrainian troops routed as Russia talks tough

NOVOKATERYNIVKA, Ukraine (AP)—The ferocity of the attack on the fleeing Ukrainian troops was clear, days after the ambush by Russian-backed separatist forces. More than 30 military vehicles lay in charred piles Tuesday. Villagers said dozens were killed, and some remained unburied. One soldier was blown out of his armored vehicle—apparently by a shell—his body left dangling from power lines high above. The rout early Sunday near the village of Novokaterynivka marked a major intensification in the rebel offensive, one that the Ukrainian government, NATO and the United States say has been sustained by Russia's direct military support. Moscow has stepped up its harsh rhetoric as well. A leaked report said European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said President Vladimir Putin told him that Russia could take over Kiev "in two weeks" if it wished.

US strike targets leader of Somali extremist group

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—U.S. airstrikes in Somalia may have killed the leader of the Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, with a militant commander saying Tuesday that he was in a car that was struck and that six people died. The leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane, has no heir apparent. If he has been killed, it would be a "significant blow" to al-Shabab's organization and abilities, said U.S. Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, who confirmed the strikes targeting Godane. But Godane's death could also lead the group to ditch its association with al-Qaida and align itself with the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, analysts said. Al-Shabab gained international notoriety a year ago this month when it attacked the upscale Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, killing at least 67 people.

UN: 4 peacekeepers killed in north Mali, 15 hurt

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—At least four U.N. peacekeepers were killed and 15 wounded when their convoy hit a mine in northern Mali on Tuesday, a spokesman said. The group of Chadian peacekeepers was returning from the embattled town of Kidal when they struck a mine about 20 miles (30 kilometers) outside the city, said Olivier Salgado, a spokesman for the force. Six of those hurt are seriously wounded, he said. Salgado did not speculate on who was behind the attack, the largest in months. But the al-Qaida group operating in the country recently has taken responsibility for several recent attacks on U.N. peacekeepers. Kidal is also the home of a simmering revolt by a Tuareg separatist movement.

Environment

Promise of a 'clean coal' future far from reality

By HAL BERNTON
THE SEATTLE TIMES

MEREDOSIA, Ill.—In 2003, President George W. Bush unveiled plans for the world's first zero-emissions coal plant, a project that would serve as a global showcase of America's ability to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels.

This FutureGen plant would be "one of the boldest steps our nation takes toward a pollution-free future," declared Spencer Abraham, Bush's energy secretary, in 2003. The knowledge we gain from the plant " … will help turn coal from an environmentally challenging energy resource into an environmentally benign one."

More than a decade later, there has yet to be a groundbreaking for FutureGen 2.0.

The project calls for overhauling an aging coal plant on the outskirts of this sleepy river town so that its carbon emissions can be captured and stored some 4,300 feet underground. But the effort has been beset by political infighting, design changes and escalating costs that helped trigger a rebellion by the state's largest utility.

FutureGen' s tortured birthing process reflects broader problems in the global effort to spur development of "clean coal" plants and carbon-capture technology—considered key steps in the battle to slow climate change.

Even the Energy Department now has doubts about whether FutureGen will succeed. Last year the department designated the FutureGen alliance charged with building the project as a "high-risk" grant recipient that might not be able to meet a September 2015 deadline for spending $1 billon in federal stimulus dollars, according to a document reviewed by The Seattle Times.

The International Energy Agency has tagged carbon capture as a key part of the struggle to head off the most extreme impacts of climate change, and hopes it will be in wide use by midcentury or earlier.

But so far, no country has hammered hard enough with regulations, or created strong enough financial incentives to spur widespread conversions to the costly and still evolving technology.

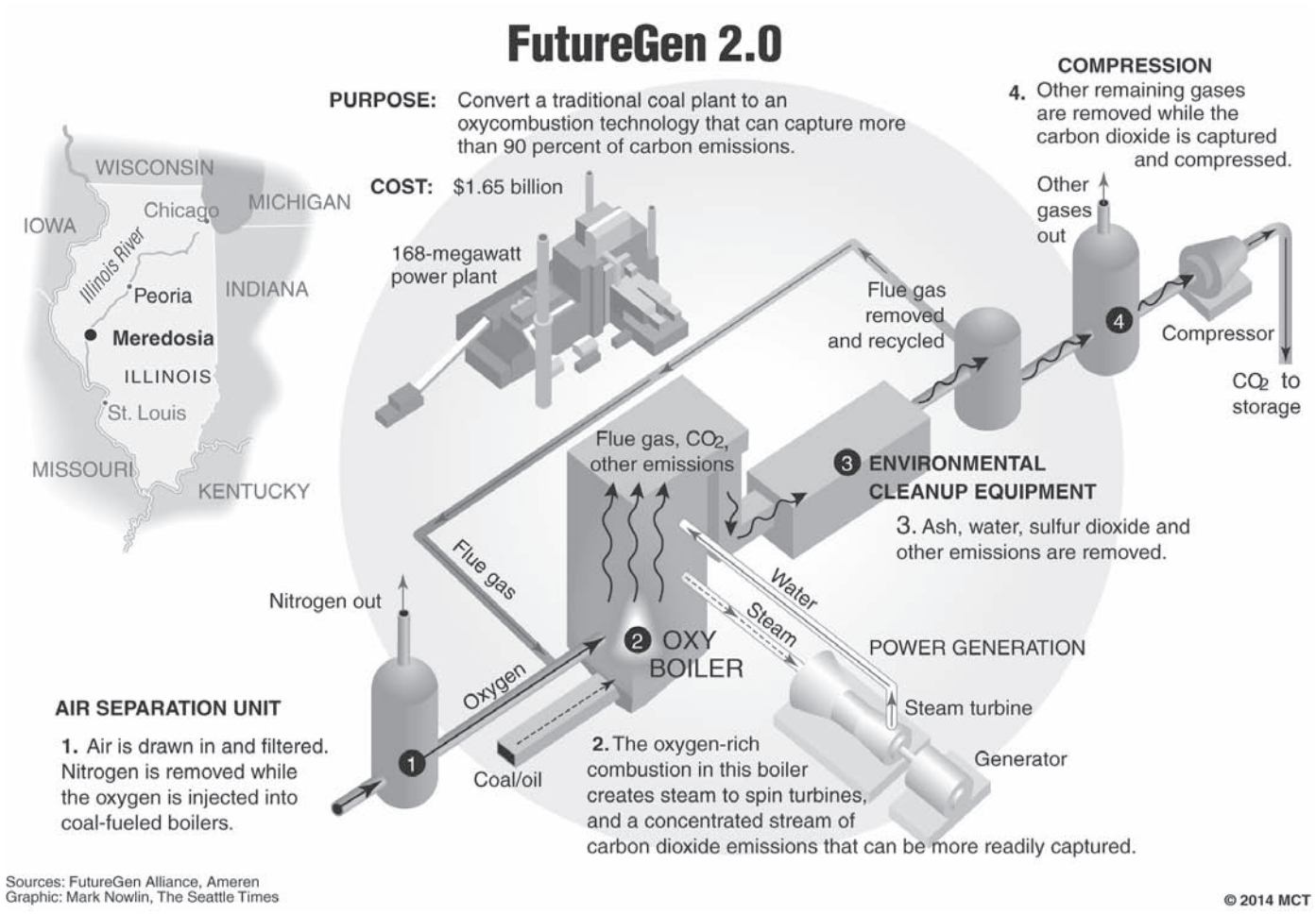
Many renewable energy advocates don't see carbon capture as a viable strategy to fight climate change. They are convinced solar, wind, hydroelectric and perhaps nuclear power can be the mainstay of 21st-century global energy.

Supporters of carbon capture say such predictions drastically overstate how swiftly and broadly the world can shift away from the use of coal, oil and natural gas. They forecast that carbon capture—even with construction and operating costs some 30 to 70 percent higher than traditional coal plants—will be a cheaper option than paying the costs associated with extremes of climate changes.

"If you want to continue to rely on fossil fuels, and reduce carbon emissions—not by a little, but by a lot—then this is the only game in town," said Edward Rubin, a lead author of a carbon-capture report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In North America, the project furthest along is in Canada, where SaskPower later this year is scheduled to start up a 110-megawatt unit that will capture more than 1 million tons of carbon a year.

In the U.S., Congress has appropriated some $6 billion since 2008 for research and other efforts to spur development of carbon capture. One Texas project, scheduled to kick off this year, plans to turn a profit by pumping carbon emissions from a coal plant into an aging oil field, where the injection is forecast to dramatically boost production.


FutureGen 2.0
PURPOSE: Convert a traditional coal plant to an oxycombustion technology that can capture more than 90 percent of carbon emissions.
COST: $1.65 billion
168-megawatt power plant
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
IOWA
Chicago
Illinois River
Peoria
INDIANA
Meredosia
ILLINOIS
St. Louis
MISSOURI
KENTUCKY
COMPRESSION
4. Other remaining gases are removed while the carbon dioxide is captured and compressed.
Other gases out
Flue gas removed and recycled
Compressor
CO2 to storage
Flue gas, CO2, other emissions
3 ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP EQUIPMENT
3. Ash, water, sulfur dioxide and other emissions are removed.
Flue gas
Water
Steam
Nitrogen out
2 OXY BOILER
POWER GENERATION
Oxygen
Steam turbine
AIR SEPARATION UNIT
1. Air is drawn in and filtered. Nitrogen is removed while the oxygen is injected into coal-fueled boilers.
Coal/oil
2. The oxygen-rich combustion in this boiler creates steam to spin turbines, and a concentrated stream of carbon dioxide emissions that can be more readily captured.
Generator
Sources: FutureGen Alliance, Ameren
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times
© 2014 MCT

ten balk at carbon-capture costs. Some projects have been canceled. And concerns have been heightened by a carbon-capture plant under construction in Mississippi that is running $3 billion over budget.

The $1.65 billion FutureGen project in Meredosia is designed to be the first commercial-scale demonstration of a technology, known as oxy-combustion, that can capture and store more than 90 percent of a 168-megwatt plant's carbon emissions.

About 40 percent of the cost is privately financed with the rest of the money coming from the federal grant.

"FutureGen is a prototype plant. … It's not surprising its cost of electricity is higher. It's just like the first solar plant ever built was a heck of a lot higher," said Ken Humphreys, chief executive officer of FutureGen.

The coal companies that control FutureGen say carbon-capture technology holds promise for the future, but appear skeptical that it can be put into place anytime soon.

They are fighting an Environmental Protection Agency rule proposed last year that would require partial carbon capture in any new coal plant, as well as another proposed rule that calls for emission reductions in states with existing fossil fuel plants.

Carbon-capture technology "is simply not commercially available and not able to satisfy Americans' need for low-cost energy," declared Peabody Energy, a key member of the FutureGen Alliance, in a statement released last September.

"The way I look at carbon capture, it is sort of an orphan," said John Thompson, of the Clean Air Task Force, a nonprofit that promotes the technology. "It doesn't have a strong political constituency in Washington."

At the turn of the new century, clean coal looked like an idea whose time had come.

In his 2000 presidential campaign, Republican candidate Bush declared that he would require power plants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions "within a reasonable period of time," and place an overall cap on U.S. carbon emissions.

Three years later, the Bush administration launched FutureGen as a 10-year effort to build a carbon-capture plant.

But Bush cooled on tackling global warming and abandoned his call for capping emissions. Administration officials rewrote government reports to downplay concerns about climate change.

Support for FutureGen also ebbed, as Abraham's successor, Samuel Bodman, scrapped the idea of building a new plant in favor of a series of smaller projects.

Some insiders at DOE protested, saying Bodman was undermining one of Bush's signature programs, and that abandoning the original project could set back carbon-capture development by a decade or more, according to internal department emails.

Michael Mudd, then chief executive of FutureGen, said the alliance of coal companies was blindsided by the turnaround.

In December 2007, the FutureGen Alliance announced Mattoon, Ill., as the site of the new carbon-capture coal plant. Hours later, the Energy Department disclosed that the project would be restructured "due to escalating costs," and Mattoon would not get its plant.

In 2009, the White House got a new occupant, a junior senator from Illinois who had been a loyal backer of a FutureGen project in his home state and whose campaign platform had called for federal assistance to build four commercial-scale carbon capture plants.

During his first few months in office, President Barack Obama worked with the state's congressional delegation to get FutureGen back on track with a $1 billion earmark from Congress.

With new money came new design ideas.

Instead of a new plant in Mattoon, the plan called for the Meredosia plant owned by Ameren Energy Resources to be retrofitted with a specialized oxygen-rich boiler. This system concentrates carbon emissions so they can be readily captured once combustion has occurred.

The converted plant is expected to use about 20 percent more coal than traditional combustion technology, according to officials at Babcock & Wilcox, developers of the oxy-combustion system.

Despite that hurdle, the Energy Department was bullish when it announced FutureGen 2.0. in 2010.

The investment will "position the country as a leader in an important part of the global clean energy economy," said then-Energy Secretary Steven Chu as he announced the siting.

Rising from the banks of the Illinois River, the Meredosia plant first began producing power back in 1948, but as the 21st century progressed has operated only sporadically.

The town, with a population of less than 1,100, also was in decline, battered by layoffs in local factories and dwindling numbers of farm families working the rich lands.

Over the years, Meredosia's main street lost a grocery store, fish market and insurance agency. As the student population shrank, the high school was forced to merge its football team with those of two nearby communities.

"That was the big blow. You don't know how tough it is to have to put on a Trojan shirt when we were Indians for all those years," said Danny Little, a graduate of Meredosia High School.

Little called the FutureGen project a "beacon of hope" that could revive the community.

Yet the revamped project soon suffered a major defection. In summer 2011, Ameren concluded that the conversion to carbon capture would cost $363 million more than initially forecast and decided to withdraw its participation, according to Energy Department documents.

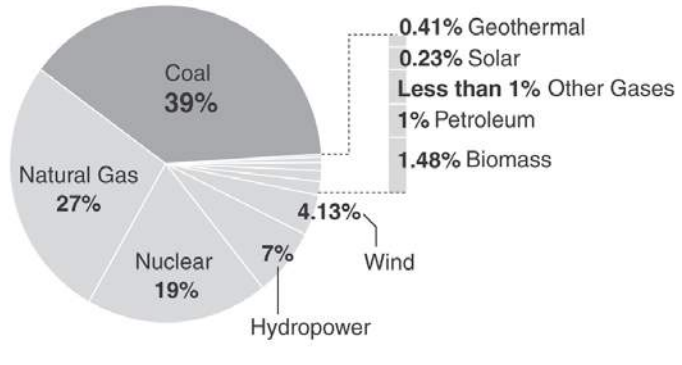
The frayed FutureGen Alliance dwindled to five members and has scrambled to come up with the $650 million of private money to finance the project.

Most of that money will be borrowed, with the debt paid off through a 20-year power sale approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission that was more than five times the price of the state's spot market prices in 2013.

Energy sources for U.S. power

In 2013, the United States generated about 4,058 billion kilowatt ours of electricity. About 67% of the electricitygenerated was from fossil fuel (coal, natural gas, and petroleum.

2013 energy sources and percent share of total electricity generation



Sources: Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times
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Life & Style

Apple: Some nude shots taken from stars' accounts

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Apple said Tuesday that hackers obtained nude photos of Jennifer Lawrence and other female celebrities by pilfering images from individual accounts rather than through a broader attack on the company's services.

Meanwhile, numerous sharing sites removed images of the stars apparently in response to copyright complaints.

However, experts say there is no way to fully scrub the photos from the Internet and the images could keep popping up in the future, forcing celebrities to file repeated complaints as they play a cyber-version of the arcade game "whack-a-mole."

Apple said its engineers have determined that hackers breached individual accounts and didn't obtain general access to a pair of the company's services—iCloud and Find my iPhone. The tech giant said it released the results after conducting 40 hours of investigation.

Law enforcement inquiries likely will take days or weeks to complete.

The FBI offered no details on its efforts to identify people responsible for stealing the images that were posted on image-sharing site Imgur.com, the social networking sites Reddit and Twitter, and other websites. But the agency said Monday it was aware of the breach and addressing the matter.

Similar investigations have involved the use of search warrants and digital forensics to determine how hackers obtained everything from Paris Hilton's contact list to nude photos of actresses Scarlett Johansson and Mila Kunis.

Lawrence, an Oscar winner for her role in "Silver Linings Playbook," contacted authorities after the images of her began appearing Sunday.

By Tuesday, a Reddit thread that had been compiling links to images of nude photos of Lawrence and other celebrities had been disabled due to a copyright claim, the website said.

Users reported difficulty finding working links to the images on other sites.

Representatives of Twitter, Reddit and Imgur did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Apple Inc. said it was cooperating with the FBI and urged users to adopt stronger passwords and enable a two-step authentication feature to prevent data thefts.

Naked images purported to be of other stars also were posted, although the authenticity of many couldn't be confirmed.

Mark Rasch, a former federal prosecutor who specialized in computer crimes, said investigators will focus on who's responsible for the theft of the photos, the tools they used, and the idiosyncrasies of how they program.

"There is a digital trail," Rasch said. "What you hope for (is) the people aren't very good at what they do, that they screw up, that they (upset) other hackers. Or that they leave a trail."

Rasch said authorities will sometimes catch an early break or get a tip that leads them to suspects. The investigations are difficult, he said, but "It's equally difficult to get away with it scot free."

In the past decade, federal prosecutors have successfully prosecuted a Massachusetts teenager who hacked Hilton's phone account and posted her contact list online. The teenager was sentenced to several months in jail.

Christopher Chaney, a Florida man, was ordered by a federal judge in 2012 to be imprisoned for 10 years for the hack that targeted Johansson.

The people responsible for stealing the Lawrence photos might also be tracked by private investigators who can operate faster than government agents, said Rasch, whose company Rasch Technology and Cyberlaw has conducted similar investigations but is not working on the current data breach.

"Even if you can get it taken down, it's likely to pop up somewhere else," said F. Jay Dougherty, a law professor at Loyola Law School Los Angeles who specializes in entertainment and intellectual property issues.

AP

In this Sunday, March 2, 2014, file photo, Jennifer Lawrence arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Celebrity hacking scandal shows digital vulnerability

LOS ANGELES (AP)—To keep private pictures private, never upload them online.

That's the advice experts offer after hackers broke into female celebrities' personal accounts, stole nude photos and posted them on the web. Jennifer Lawrence and Mary Elizabeth Winstead have said they were victims of the hack attack.

Federal investigators are looking into the theft, and Apple confirmed Tuesday that while individual accounts were breached, its iCloud and Find My iPhone services remained secure.

This latest hacking scandal is another reminder that locking down digital data is a must for public figures.

"It shows that celebrities, like the rest of us, are not as attuned to Internet security as they should be," said marketing expert Dorie Clark. "Like many regular couples, celebrities probably enjoy taking racy photographs, but they have to recognize there are people out there who are inherently interested in what they're doing, and want to either make money or make a name for themselves by getting at those photos."

It could be embarrassing for anyone to have their nude image shown online, but most people aren't at risk of being targeted by hackers in this way, said Gary Zembow, who helps celebrities secure their data as founder of Hollywood Tech Consulting.

"If you accept that some celebrities need bodyguards," he said, "then their personal, private data needs a version of that, as well."

Individuals and companies increasingly use Internet-based "cloud" storage for images and other data. But such data can become more vulnerable once uploaded online, said professor Lance Larson, an instructor at San Diego State University's Graduate Program in Homeland Security.

"The cloud is like a storage locker," he said. "Are you the only person with the key? Or does the storage-unit owner also have a key?"

In short: "Don't put a document or photo online or in the cloud if you don't want it to get out at some point," he said.

It is unclear when and in what context the targeted actresses created the nude images. Winstead tweeted Sunday that the intimate pictures she took with her husband "in the privacy of our home" had long been deleted. "I can only imagine the creepy effort that went into this," she wrote.

Even though such hacking is illegal—the man who stole nude photos of Scarlett Johansson was convicted of federal wiretapping and unauthorized access to a computer—ensuring that all the illicit images are removed from all the sites that posted them is a never-ending challenge.

So how can celebrities—and others—protect their privacy in the Internet era?

Remember that all digital media, even with privacy controls, can become public, said professor Karen North, director of the Annenberg Program on Online Communities at the University of Southern California.

"What you think is private is public, and what you think is temporary is permanent," she said. "Once you share it with somebody, you no longer control the intellectual property."

To really keep something private, don't upload it and don't share it.

Also, log off the Internet and turn off the computer when you're done using it, Larson suggested.

"If you don't take that device offline," he said, "you're providing 24 hours a day, seven days a week of a potentially unmonitored computer on the Internet."

Be mindful of wireless networks as well—especially celebrities whose homes can often be located on "star maps" or shown during Hollywood tours. Zembow notes that anyone could pull up in front of the house and break into its Wi-Fi system.

"The simplest two words are strong passwords," he said.

Finally, those insistent upon taking sexy photos ought to consider using an offline device not connected to the Internet, and keep it locked in a safe. Or go retro and use a Polaroid.

Justin Verlander addresses online photo hacking

By TOM WITHERS
AP SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND (AP)—Justin Verlander wants to keep his private life just that—private.

The Tigers' star pitcher commented for the first time Tuesday after nude photos of him and model girlfriend Kate Upton were allegedly hacked from an online account and posted on the Internet.

Verlander, who initially declined comment on the situation, spoke to reporters before Detroit played the Indians.

"I'm not going to comment on my personal life," the 31-year-old said. "I never have and I never plan on it. I keep my personal life personal. The focus for me is on the Detroit Tigers. I don't want to take any focus away from this team and what we're trying to accomplish. We're in the middle of a pennant race. We're trying to win a pennant and all of my focus currently is on doing whatever I can to help our team win our division."

Verlander, Upton and other celebrities, including Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, allegedly had photos stolen and posted online. The FBI has launched an investigation.

Verlander knew there was interest in his side of the story and wanted to address the situation.

"I know a couple of guys wanted to get some questions from me yesterday," Verlander said. "Instead of everybody kind of sneaking around and getting questions at specific times, it's just easier to say, `I'm not commenting on that. I'm trying to win a pennant.' I know some guys are probably getting a lot of pressure from other people to get quotes or whatever. I knew I'd be getting a lot of questions. This is it."

The AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner in 2011, Verlander has always been able to block out distractions. He's dealt with a shoulder injury this season and takes a 12-11 record into Wednesday's start against the Indians.

"I've always been good at that," Verlander said of ignoring outside influences. "This is my life. Baseball's my life. You're able to focus on that especially when you're on the mound doing what I've done my whole life."

Verlander did not comment specifically on the photos.

Bieber charged with assault over photo incident

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian pop star Justin Bieber faces new charges after he was arrested for dangerous driving and assault following a collision between a minivan and an ATV that led to a physical altercation involving a photographer, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Ontario Provincial Police said Bieber, who was driving the ATV, and an occupant of the minivan "engaged in a physical altercation," Friday afternoon near Bieber's hometown of Stratford.

"Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez's peaceful retreat in Stratford this weekend was unfortunately disrupted by the unwelcome presence of the paparazzi," Brian Greenspan, Bieber's Toronto lawyer, said Tuesday.

"This has regrettably resulted in charges of dangerous driving and assault. Mr. Bieber and Ms. Gomez have fully cooperated in the police investigation. We are hopeful that this matter will be quickly resolved."

Bieber, 20, turned himself in to a police station Monday and was arrested, then released on a promise to appear in court Sept. 29, Constable Kees Wijnands said.

Wijnands said there were no injuries as a result of the collision, but could not say whether there were any injuries from the altercation.

"It wasn't a big deal for us. We knew he was here. He's a local boy. We weren't going to make a big deal of it," Wijnands said, adding that Beiber was riding with a passenger.

Bieber was photographed Friday riding on an ATV vehicle with on-and-off again girlfriend actress and a singer Selena Gomez.

Just a few days before the incident, Bieber's car was hit from behind by a vehicle driven by a photographer in Hollywood and the Grammy Award-nominated singer tweeted: "There should be laws against what I just experienced. We should have learned from the death of Princess Diana..."

He also tweeted: "I don't have a problem with Paparazzi but when they act recklessly they put us all in danger."

Earlier this month, Bieber pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of careless driving and resisting arrest seven months after his arrest in Miami Beach following what police initially called an illegal street drag race.

Bieber is also charged in Toronto with assaulting a limousine driver in late December. Police allege Bieber hit a limousine driver several times in the back of the head after he and five others were picked up in the early hours of Dec. 30.

His lawyers have said he is not guilty in that case. There is a court hearing in that case scheduled for Sept. 8, but Greenspan said Bieber won't attend.

Also in Miami, Bieber faces a lawsuit by a photographer who alleges he was roughed up while shooting pictures of the singer outside a recording studio.

In July, Bieber pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor vandalism charge for throwing eggs at a neighbor's house in Los Angeles. He agreed to pay more than $80,000 in damages, meet a number of other conditions and was sentenced to two years' probation.

AP

In this March 19, 2013, file photo, singer Justin Bieber performs during a concert at Bercy Arena in Paris.

Bieber rocketed to fame at age 15. He was nominated for two Grammy Awards for his 2010 full-length album debut "My World 2.0," but sales of his latest records have fallen off.

Family: Joan Rivers on life support

AP

In this April 30, 2012 file photo, Joan Rivers attends an E! Network event in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Joan Rivers' family is confirming that the comedian is on life support after going into cardiac arrest last week during a procedure at a doctor's office.

Her daughter, Melissa Rivers, said in a statement Tuesday that her mother is on life support "at this time." Melissa said the family is extremely grateful for the public support.

Joan Rivers was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan last Thursday. The 81-year-old comic and red carpet commentator has maintained a busy career as host of "Fashion Police" on the E! network and co-star of the WEtv reality show, "Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best?"

Melissa Rivers said Tuesday that she knows that her mother would be overwhelmed by the continuing outpouring of kindness.

Jimi Jamison, lead singer of Survivor, dead at 63

Jamison

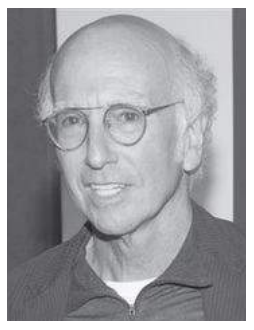
NEW YORK (AP)—Jimi Jamison, who sang lead on Survivor hits such as "Burning Heart" and "Is This Love," has died. He was 63.

Booking agent Sally Irwin said Tuesday that Jamison died last weekend of an apparent heart attack at his home in Memphis, Tennessee. He had returned to Memphis after performing in California.

Jamison joined the group in 1984, after it had already become known for "Eye of the Tiger," the theme song to the Sylvester Stallone film "Rocky III." With Jamison replacing vocalist Dave Bickler, the band had several more hits and remained a popular touring act in recent years. Jamison also co-wrote and sang "I'm Always Here," the theme to "Baywatch."

A native of Mississippi, Jamison was a member of Target and Cobra before joining Survivor.

Larry David play heads to Broadway this February



David

NEW YORK (AP)—Theater fans, get ready to laugh uncomfortably—Larry David has found a Broadway theater and some co-stars for his writing and acting stage debut.

Producers said Tuesday that the "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star's play "Fish in the Dark" will star Rosie Perez, Jayne Houdyshell, Jake Cannavale, Jonny Orsini and Jerry Adler. Anna D. Shapiro, who won a Tony Award for staging "August: Osage County," will direct.

Previews will begin Feb. 2 at the Cort Theatre and opening night is set for March 5.

David, who also was the co-creator, head writer and executive producer of "Seinfeld," has called his play "a comedy about a death in the family."

In 2009, he starred in Woody Allen's comedy "Whatever Works" and co-wrote and starred in the HBO film "Clear History."

Sotomayor to receive Hepburn Medal from Bryn Mawr

BRYN MAWR, Pa. (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor will be honored by Bryn Mawr College for her trailblazing legal career.

The women's liberal arts school near Philadelphia announced Tuesday that Sotomayor will receive the 2015 Katharine Hepburn Medal, given to women who embody "the intelligence, drive and independence" of the Oscar-winning actress. Hepburn was a 1928 graduate of Bryn Mawr.

School officials say Sotomayor shows "an unflinching commitment to justice and a fundamental dedication to real equality in our diverse society."

Sotomayor is the first Hispanic on the nation's highest court. She'll receive the Hepburn Medal on April 17.

The medal is also named for the actress' mother, Katharine Houghton Hepburn. She was an early women's rights activist and 1900 Bryn Mawr graduate.

Previous recipients include actress Lauren Bacall and rocker Patti Smith.

Plans to share a room hit a snag over mom's snoring

DEAR ABBY: My son's out-of-town wedding is coming up. My mother will attend and be traveling with me. I am single, and my mom is also single. She's planning on sharing a room with me.

Abby, my mom has a severe snoring problem, and I'm a very light sleeper. I cannot sleep with a snorer! I don't want to ruin my time at my son's wedding, and she's upset about the added expense of another room, which neither of us can really afford, but I don't know what else to do.

MOTHER OF THE GROOM

DEAR MOTHER OF THE GROOM: The separate room may be a luxury you can't "really afford," but incurring the expense may be worth it so you won't sleepwalk through your son's wedding. I'm not recommending earplugs because, while they may dull the racket, they won't completely eliminate the sound of severe snoring.

P.S. If your mother's physician doesn't know about her snoring, it should be discussed so the doctor can make sure it isn't a symptom of a serious health problem.

DEAR ABBY: My son has two children who are in temporary foster care, and has visitation with the ex's stepsister, who got the right to grant visitation. Recently we had a birthday party for them. All the grandparents, aunts and uncles were invited. It was a kiddie party, of course, and I jumped into the pool and played with the children. We had a ball!

A few weeks later, I heard the stepsister's mother had said I had "no business" playing in the pool with the kids. I was taken aback. Isn't that what grandmas are for? I love playing with the little ones.

Was I wrong for not "acting my age"? Did I make a fool of myself? The custody fight is ongoing and I don't want to do anything that would jeopardize my son winning custody.

WORRIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR WORRIED: I don't think you did anything inappropriate. I suspect the stepsister's mother was jealous that she wasn't the person in the pool, which is why she didn't speak up during the party and you had to hear it weeks later secondhand.

DEAR ABBY: On July 31 you printed my question about throwing a 25th anniversary party for my parents. I want to let you know that instead of taking on an expensive dinner that I can't afford right now, I'm collaborating with a cousin to have a chef come into their home to prepare a nice meal for them and the people who participated in their wedding. I felt it was a much more personal and cost-effective way to give them the nice anniversary they deserve. Thank you for your advice!

SON OF SILVERS

DEAR S.O.S.: I'm delighted you wrote to share your solution. The idea is terrific. I am sure your parents will be thrilled and other readers will appreciate your ingenuity. Thank you!

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

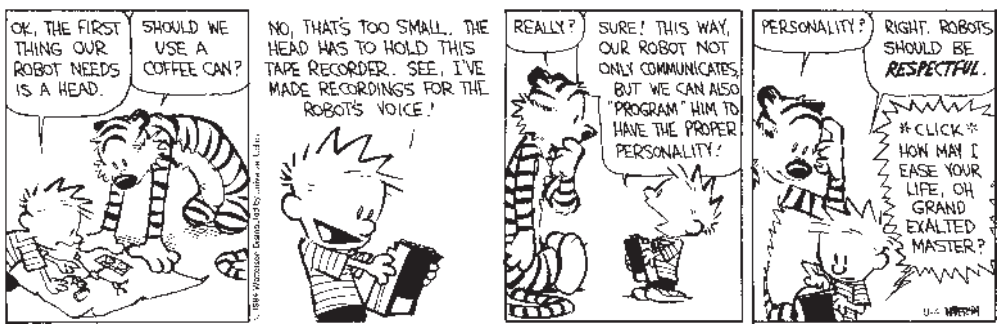
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

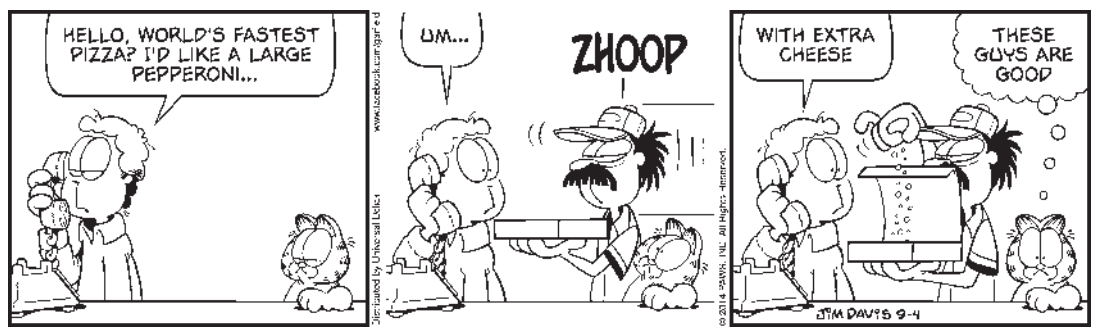
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK, THE FIRST THING OUR ROBOT NEEDS IS A HEAD.
SHOULD WE USE A COFFEE CAN?
NO, THAT'S TOO SMALL. THE HEAD HAS TO HOLD THIS TAPE RECORDER. SEE, I'VE MADE RECORDINGS FOR THE ROBOT'S VOICE!
REALLY?
SURE! THIS WAY, OUR ROBOT NOT ONLY COMMUNICATES, BUT WE CAN ALSO "PROGRAM" HIM TO HAVE THE PROPER PERSONALITY!
PERSONALITY?
RIGHT. ROBOTS SHOULD BE RESPECTFUL.
CLICK HOW MAY I EASE YOUR LIFE, OH GRAND EXALTED MASTER?

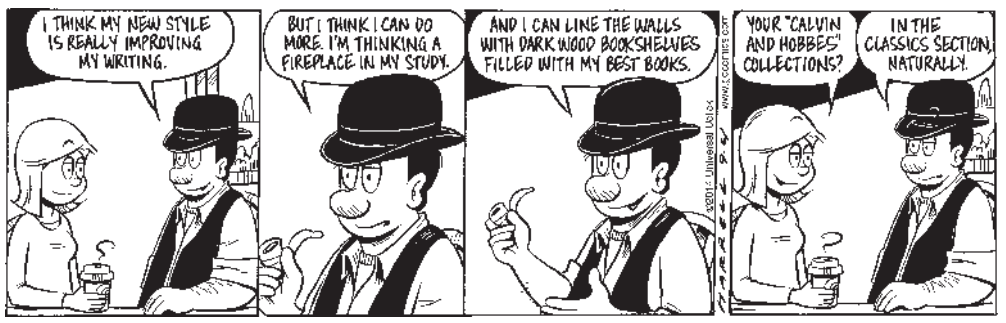
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



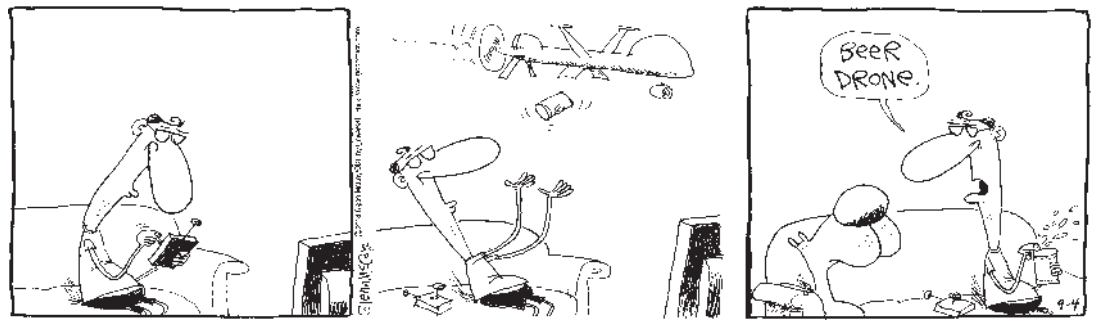
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I THINK MY NEW STYLE IS REALLY IMPROVING MY WRITING.
BUT I THINK I CAN DO MORE. I'M THINKING A FIREPLACE IN MY STUDY.
AND I CAN LINE THE WALLS WITH DARK WOOD BOOKSHELVES FILLED WITH MY BEST BOOKS.
YOUR "CALVIN AND HOBBES" COLLECTIONS?
IN THE CLASSICS SECTION, NATURALLY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

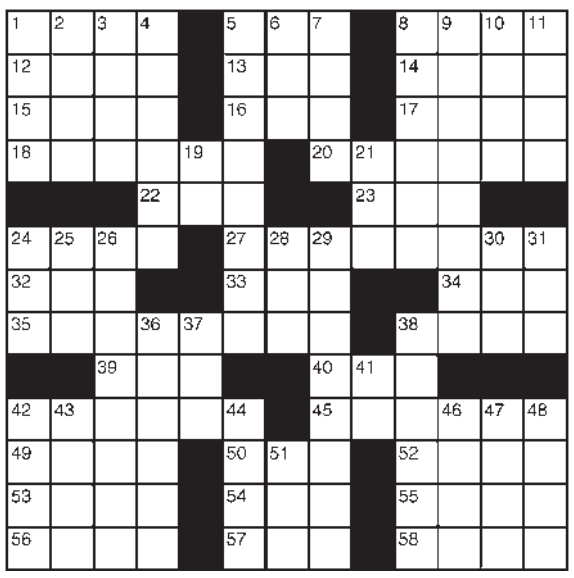
ACROSS
1 Noted pirate captain
5 Weep loudly
8 Mail org.
12 Great Lake
13 Definite article
14 Old portico
15 Branch
16 Decay
17 — and crafts
18 Phony
20 Surprise attack
22 French refusal
23 Last (Abbr.)
24 Twilight
27 Utility gauge
32 Frequently in verse
33 Second ph.
34 Before
35 Wizard
38 Actor Pitt
39 A billion years
40 Mimic
42 Emmy, Oscar et al.
45 Gilligan's home
49 Powerful shark
50 Triumph
52 TV chef Bobby
53 Microwave
54 Exist
55 Kennedy matriarch
56 Antitoxins
57 Pitch
58 Calendar quantity

DOWN
1 Brown seaweed
2 Rainbow
3 Canadian coin
4 Bust, as a myth
5 More potent
6 "So that's it, eh?"
7 Greek consonant
8 In working order
9 One walking proudly
10 Cookware
11 Obi
19 Accomplish
21 Silent
24 Windows predecessor
25 E.T.'s craft?
26 One barely getting along?
28 Hatchet
29 Sieve
30 Geological time
31 Roulette bet
36 Beer brand
37 Conclude
38 Bats' home?
41 "By the way ..."
42 Minor prophet
43 Greet quietly
44 Hit a fly
46 Burn soother
47 Houston org.
48 Color worker
51 Writer Levin

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	L	S	H	■	P	T	A	■	A	B	I	E
A	S	I	A	■	L	E	I	■	P	E	C	S
B	E	T	R	A	Y	E	D	■	A	L	E	S
A	R	F	A	S	■	■	S	P	R	I	T	F
■	■	■	S	K	I	D	■	A	■	E	■	■
J	O	B	S	■	B	A	H	S	■	V	I	A
A	V	E	■	L	I	M	I	T	■	E	R	R
W	A	D	■	I	S	N	T	■	A	D	A	M
■	■	■	E	W	E	■	S	E	P	■	■	■
V	I	C	U	N	A	■	■	R	H	O	D	A
■	N	K	S	■	B	E	W	A	■	L	E	D
A	C	E	S	■	L	E	O	■	D	I	M	E
L	A	D	Y	■	E	L	K	■	S	O	O	N

Yesterday's answer 9-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Whitney Cummings, 32; Beyonce Knowles, 33; Wes Bentley, 36; Drew Pinsky, 56.

Happy Birthday: Listen carefully and size up situations before you take action. Your determination will count for something, but interference can be expected due to changes that leave you feeling uncertain. Trust in experience and good advice from reputable individuals, and you will avoid a mistake that will be costly and deter your progress and success. Proceed with caution. Your numbers are 3, 14, 17, 23, 28, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take any opportunity you get to enjoy time spent with friends, peers or youngsters. Don't let an emotional situation cause a rift between you and someone you love. A change of plans shouldn't disrupt your day. Adaptability will lead to an interesting adventure. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Strive to improve your standard of living. Refuse to let a situation you face with a partner spin out of control. Bide your time, choose your words wisely and keep the peace. Don't share personal information or intentions. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Reassess your financial situation and make conservative decisions based on the best way to build personal security. Someone who asks for help will have something to offer in return. You can turn this gesture of friendliness into a long-term alliance. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Listen, but don't retaliate. Not everyone will see things the same way you do. Make changes based on what works for you and allow others the same privilege. Protect against illness or injury. Work alongside your partner regarding domestic changes. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Raise issues that you feel strong about, but be prepared to face opposition. Changes and decisions can be made that will satisfy everyone if you are willing to make concessions. Don't spend on a gimmick that promises the impossible. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get organized and you will be able to tie up loose ends. Make plans to do something that will make you feel relaxed and satisfied with your life. Your discipline and stamina will help you reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't get down; get moving. You will face opposition at home where emotional matters are concerned. Get out and take part in an event or activity that will take your mind off personal matters. A romantic gesture will ease tension and stress. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't feel pressured to do things in a big or pronounced manner. Keep things simple, moderate and under control. You'll come up with unique solutions that will give you greater financial autonomy if you observe what the experts do. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may have money to burn, but don't make the mistake of being overly generous or open about what you have. Make personal changes that will add to your comfort and keep you in the running for professional advancement. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Emotions will creep up on you, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Say little and you will avoid ending up in a discussion that will compromise a relationship you have with a friend, relative or someone in your community. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Express your feelings and discuss your plans with someone you feel comfortable with. A trusted partner can help you make a decision that will improve your assets and financial future. Physical changes you make will invite compliments. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get in touch with people you have worked with in the past, and you will discover an opportunity to pick up where you left off. A deal can be negotiated if you are willing to put the past behind you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, determined and pragmatic. You are focused and strong-willed.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1		2			
			7		5			
	5	8				2	3	
2	3						9	5
				4				
6	9						2	7
	6	5				3	7	
			6		1			
			3		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	7	4	1	5	2	8	9
2	1	4	3	8	9	6	7	5
9	8	5	6	2	7	3	1	4
3	7	6	9	5	8	4	2	1
5	2	8	1	6	4	9	3	7
4	9	1	2	7	3	8	5	6
8	6	3	5	9	1	7	4	2
1	4	9	7	3	2	5	6	8
7	5	2	8	4	6	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOING ON A PICNIC **Solution: 6 letters**

S	B	V	R	I	A	H	C	I	S	U	M	Y	B	D
W	E	L	O	R	P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L	R	E
O	V	H	A	L	E	K	A	C	O	O	K	I	E	S
L	E	P	C	N	L	L	S	S	T	A	E	M	A	S
L	R	O	T	I	K	E	O	K	D	A	(P)	A	K	E
A	A	T	E	S	W	E	Y	O	N	(A)	D	F	F	R
M	G	L	K	E	A	D	T	B	(C)	I	R	O	A	T
H	E	U	S	S	B	E	N	(K)	A	I	R	O	S	S
S	H	C	A	E	B	S	F	A	E	L	G	D	T	O
R	S	K	B	C	M	S	I	N	S	R	L	A	I	C
A	U	C	D	U	N	A	D	R	I	S	B	S	U	C
M	M	A	I	A	E	S	G	L	F	L	S	L	R	E
E	M	N	P	S	K	R	L	I	E	L	P	A	F	R
A	E	S	S	D	A	L	A	S	N	I	U	S	K	S
L	R	E	P	E	L	L	E	N	T	H	C	N	U	L

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Basket, Beach, Beverage, Blanket, Breakfast, Cake, Chair, Cookies, Cooler, Cups, Desserts, Dips, Drinks, Family, Feast, Food, Friends, Frisbee, Fruit, Games, Grill, Hills, Lake, Lunch, Marshmallows, Meal, Meats, Music, Pack, Pans, Potluck, Proposal, Repellent, Salads, Salsa, Sandwiches, Sauces, Snack, Soccer, Soda, Summer, Tables, Volleyball

Yesterday's Answer: Maple Tree

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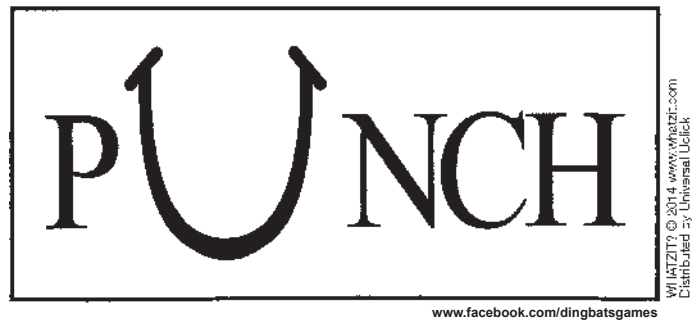

Find today's solution in classified section

Kershaw wins 17th as Dodgers beat Nationals, 4-1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw pitched eight strong innings for his major league-leading 17th win and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Washington Nationals 4-1 Tuesday night.

Kershaw (17-3) gave up one run and three hits, walked two and struck out eight to win his third straight start. He also lowered his baseball-best ERA to 1.70.

Doug Fister (12-6) lost his third consecutive start. He went five-plus innings, giving up 10 hits and four runs.

Bryce Harper homered in the seventh for the Nationals' only run of the game. It was the first homer by a lefty against Kershaw this season.

With the win, the Dodgers (78-61) moved one game behind the Nationals (78-59) for the National League's best record.

Kenley Jansen pitched a hitless inning for his 39th save.

Los Angeles Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw delivers a pitch against the Washington Nationals at Dodger Stadium. AP

Tigers 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer off closer Cody Allen in the ninth inning, lifting Detroit to the win.

Martinez's one-out shot over the center-field wall bailed out the Tigers, who had been unable to get a clutch hit for eight innings. But in the ninth, Torii Hunter drew a leadoff walk from Allen (5-4), Miguel Cabrera singled, and after Victor Martinez flied out, J.D. Martinez connected for his 19th homer.

Phil Coke (3-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings and Joe Nathan worked the ninth for his 29th save.

Detroit's comeback kept the Tigers on the heels of first-place Kansas City in the AL Central.

Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer for Cleveland, which has dropped the first two in this critical four-game series.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5

In Oakland, Calif., James Paxton pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning and Seattle held off a late rally by Oakland, handing the Athletics their fifth loss in six games.

Paxton (5-1) gave up three hits through the seventh. Ahead 6-0, he got chased in Oakland's three-run eighth, and the A's nearly got even in a harried ninth.

Seattle closer Fernando Rodney took over with a 6-3 lead and retired the first two batters. He then gave up consecutive doubles to Derek Norris and pinch-hitters Brandon Moss and Sam Fuld before retiring Josh Reddick on a grounder for his 40th save.

The A's remained 4 1/2 games back of the first-place Angels, who lost at Houston. Seattle is third in the AL wild-card standings.

Oakland's Sonny Gray (13-8) gave up six runs in five innings.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright earned his 16th win and matched his career best with three RBIs, carrying the Cardinals to the victory.

The bottom of the order was the difference in the fourth win in a row for the NL Central leaders. Eighth-place hitter Peter Bourjos singled twice and drove in a run, and seventh-place hitter Daniel Descalso walked twice and scored twice.

Wainwright (16-9) prevailed despite allowing three home runs to match his career worst. He left after Starling Marte's two-run shot shaved the lead to 5-4 with none out in the seventh.

Pat Neshek pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Russell Martin and Jordy Mercer also homered for the Pirates, who have lost three in a row. Jeff Locke (6-4) got the loss.

Royals 2, Rangers 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez hit a scorching liner off the glove of third baseman Adrian Beltre for a single, allowing Jarrod Dyson to score the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for Kansas City.

Jason Frasor (4-1) left runners on the corners in the eighth against his former team, and Aaron Crow worked around a two-out single in the ninth for his third save of the season.

All-Star closer Greg Holland was unavailable after pitching three consecutive days.

The Rangers' Derek Holland and counterpart Jeremy Guthrie pitched to a stalemate through seven innings before the Royals broke through against Michael Kirkman (0-1) in the eighth.

The Royals' Nori Aoki and the Rangers' Daniel Robertson drove in the game's other runs.

Red Sox 9, Yankees 4

In New York, Xander Bogaerts homered among his four hits and fellow rookie Mookie Betts also went deep during a big night at the plate, powering Boston to the win.

Daniel Nava hit a three-run shot to back Joe Kelly's first win with Boston. Betts had three hits and slumping Mike Napoli hit two sacrifice flies for the last-place Red Sox, who have won eight of their last 11 road games.

A furious Brett Gardner got ejected on a frustrating—and sometimes embarrassing—night for the Yankees, who began the day four games out of a playoff spot before losing their fifth in seven games following a five-game winning streak.

Rookie right-hander Shane Greene (4-2) was hit hard and chased in the third inning.

Kelly (1-1) allowed three runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Orioles 5, Reds 4

In Baltimore, Bud Norris pitched six shutout innings, Nelson Cruz notched his career-high 91st RBI during a four-run first, and the Orioles beat the Reds.

Jonathan Schoop homered for the Orioles, who extended their lead in the AL East to a season-high 9 1/2 games. Baltimore endured two rain delays totaling more two hours and withstood an eighth-inning grand slam by Jay Bruce to notch its seventh win in nine games.

Norris (12-8) allowed four hits. Zach Britton worked the ninth for his 32nd save.

Cincinnati's Mat Latos (5-4) yielded five runs and a season-high 10 hits over five innings in his first loss since July 27.

Astros 8, Angels 3

In Houston, Jose Altuve had four hits for the second straight game and Brad Peacock threw 6 1-3 solid innings, leading Houston to the win.

Altuve became the first Astro to accomplish that feat since Lance Berkman in May 2008. Altuve's homer in the third extended Houston's lead to 4-0 and was his sixth straight plate appearance with a hit.

Peacock (4-8) gave up three runs and four hits while earning his first win since July 8 at Texas. Houston has won four of its last five.

Gordon Beckham had three hits for the AL West-leading Angels, who had won six in a row. C.J Wilson (10-9) was tagged for five runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Giants 12, Rockies 7

In Denver, Buster Posey homered, doubled twice and drove in four runs, rallying San Francisco to the road win.

Posey's solo homer in the sixth keyed a three-run burst as the Giants erased a 7-1 deficit to remain on the heels of the Dodgers in the NL West. He hit a two-run double in a six-run seventh.

George Kontos (4-0) kept the Giants in striking distance with 1 2-3 scoreless innings until the bats could heat up.

Josh Rutledge had a two-run triple in the third and DJ LeMahieu followed a two-run homer for the Rockies, who have the worst record in the National League. Reliever Matt Belisle (4-7) got the loss.

Phillies 4, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Kyle Kendrick allowed three hits in seven innings, Carlos Ruiz homered and drove in two runs, and the Phillies shut out the struggling Braves.

One day after Cole Hamels and three relievers threw the first combined no-hitter in Phillies history, Kendrick (8-11) and relievers Ken Giles and Antonio Bastardo were dominant in the three-hit shutout.

The Braves, who began the night 1 1/2 games behind the NL wild-card leaders, have lost three of four. With two straight shutout losses, they haven't scored in 24 consecutive innings.

Jason Heyward had two doubles. Atlanta's only other hit was a third-inning single by Andrelton Simmons.

Braves left-hander Mike Minor (6-9) allowed three runs in 7 1-3 innings.

Cubs 7, Brewers 1

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta pitched six solid innings and the Cubs handed the Brewers their seventh straight loss.

Shortstop Elian Herrera made two errors that helped the Cubs score four runs in the first inning, and Milwaukee went on to match its worst skid of the season.

Since owning a 2 1/2-game lead in the NL Central on Aug. 19, the Brewers have lost 10 of 12.

Arrieta (8-5) gave up one run and five hits.

Milwaukee's Yovani Gallardo (8-8) allowed a season-high seven runs and eight hits in five innings.

Blue Jays 8, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Jose Reyes hit a three-run homer for Toronto, and R.A. Dickey gave up two hits in seven innings.

Reyes' ninth home run broke a 2-all tie in the fourth inning and sent the Blue Jays to their third win in a row.

Danny Valencia also homered off Rays starter Jeremy Hellickson (1-3). Pinch-hitter Dioner Navarro added a two-run shot off Cesar Ramos in the eighth.

Jose Bautista's streak of homering in five straight games ended, but he had two singles and an RBI for Toronto.

Dickey (11-12) gave up two runs.

Mets 8, Marlins 6

In Miami, David Wright broke out of his offensive woes with three hits and three RBIs, leading the Mets to the victory.

Juan Lagares reached base five times, including a career-high four hits, stole two bases, scored three runs, and drove in two for the Mets, who pounded out 16 hits.

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton hit his 35th home run and second in two games against the Mets. He drove in two runs to give him 101 RBIs, becoming the first Marlins player to drive in 100 runs since Dan Uggla had 105 RBIs in 2010.

Christian Yelich had three of the Marlins' 11 hits. Brad Penny (1-1) took the loss.

Jonathon Niese (8-10) pitched six innings for New York, and Jenrry Mejia worked the ninth for his 22nd save.

White Sox 6, Twins 3, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Tyler Flowers' first career multihomer game lifted the White Sox to the win.

Dayan Viciedo hit a tiebreaking solo shot in the 10th against Lester Oliveros (0-1). Flowers added his second two-run shot of the night later in the inning as the White Sox won for just the fourth time in their last 14 games.

After rookie Kennys Vargas gave Minnesota a 2-0 lead in the first with a 423-foot homer, Flowers tied it in the second with his 11th homer.

An errant pickoff attempt allowed pinch-runner Aaron Hicks to advance to third base in the ninth, but Chicago's Daniel Webb (6-4) recovered and got Kurt Suzuki to fly to right.

Jake Petricka pitched the 10th for his 11th save.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego, Cory Spangenberg's first big league home run came on the first pitch he saw as a pinch hitter with one out in the ninth inning and gave San Diego the victory.

Spangenberg, hitting for Cameron Maybin, connected against Brad Ziegler (5-3), sending a drive to the home run porch down the right-field line at Petco Park.

Spangenberg made his big league debut on Monday, hitting a two-run single and making two nice plays at third base.

Kevin Quackenbush (3-3) pitched the ninth for the win.

Following his own rules, Monfils into US Open QFs

NEW YORK (AP)—Gael Monfils follows his own rules.

The guy does things on a tennis court no one else has—or can. Just search his name on YouTube and watch any of many video clips showcasing his speed and agility; start with the parallel-to-the-ground, a-few-feet-in-the-air dive at this year's French Open.

He sips soda during breaks in his matches, raising the can in a toast to his agent.

He is currently without any coach at all, in an era when some players have two.

What Monfils has never done, despite all his talent—and in some cases, because he has appeared to value style over substance right there on court, in the middle of a point, preferring the spectacular to the sufficient—is reach a Grand Slam final. He took a step closer Tuesday at the U.S. Open during a surprisingly matter-of-fact 7-5, 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory in the fourth round over No. 7-seeded Grigor Dimitrov, a man considered one of the sport's up-and-comers.

There is a narrative building around the 20th-seeded Monfils' success so far this year at Flushing Meadows, where he hasn't dropped a set en route to reaching the quarterfinals for the first time since 2010: He has matured, is playing more carefully, more seriously.

The Frenchman, who will face Roger Federer for a spot in the semifinals, rejected that notion after Tuesday's win.

"I'm the same. So I will say I'm a bit more lucky than I was maybe sometime in the past. I think I haven't changed a lot, to be honest. I haven't changed a lot," Monfils said. "I just play maybe solid today, but I'm still the same."

AP

Gael Monfils, of France, reacts after a shot against Grigor Dimitrov, of Bulgaria, during the fourth round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, in New York.

As if to prove that, there was the unusual sequence in the second set. Trailing 40-love as Dimitrov served, Monfils stood halfway between the baseline and the service line to receive, and then casually and halfheartedly flicked a return long to lose the game. He walked to the changeover to a chorus of boos from the spectators in Arthur Ashe Stadium, plopped down for the break, chucked a towel at the adjacent chair and started barking something toward his guest box in the stands.

Asked about that afterward, Monfils said he was angry at himself at that moment and just wanted to get that game over with.

"I was like, `Just serve, because obviously I give you the game. So it's OK,'" he said. "It's nothing against anyone. I was upset."

Monfils' lone Grand Slam semifinal appearance came at the 2008 French Open, when he lost to Federer, part of a 2-7 career mark against the 17-time major champion.

Federer advanced to the U.S. Open quarterfinals for the 10th time in 11 years by eliminating 17th-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 Tuesday night. Federer won the point on 35 of 52 trips to the net.

The other quarterfinal matchup on that half of the draw will be No. 6 Tomas Berdych against No. 14 Marin Cilic. Berdych beat 20-year-old Dominic Thiem 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; Cilic was a 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 winner against No. 26 Gilles Simon, who was treated for a back problem early on.

In women's quarterfinals Tuesday, 39th-ranked Peng Shuai of China ended the precocious run of 17-year-old Belinda Belic of Switzerland 6-2, 6-1. Peng's next opponent will be No. 10 Caroline Wozniacki, the 2009 U.S. Open runner-up, who overwhelmed No. 13 Sara Errani 6-0, 6-1 in a wind-whipped match Tuesday night.

Peng, 28, advanced to her first Grand Slam semifinal in the 37th major tournament of her career; only five women took longer to get to the final four at one of the sport's top four events.

Her voice choking with emotion during an on-court interview, Peng said she had pondered giving up professional tennis in the past, but "my coach, my parents - they always tell me to try to keep going and never ever, give up."

In the afternoon, with the temperature topping 90 degrees (32 Celsius) and the humidity at about 50 percent, Monfils and Dimitrov appeared sluggish at times.

"Where should I begin?" said Dimitrov, a Wimbledon semifinalist in July. "Just a bad match for me."

A key moment came in the second-set tiebreaker, when Dimitrov went ahead 6-4. On the first set point, Dimitrov nearly lost his balance as he shanked a forehand off Monfils' mediocre drop shot.

"One of the worst drop shots I ever hit," Monfils said, grinning, "and he hit a frame."

On the second, a 13-stroke exchange, Dimitrov dropped a backhand into the net.

That was part of four-point run for Monfils thanks to miscues by his opponent. While Monfils essentially kept the ball in play, taking some pace off and pushing shots over the net, Dimitrov sailed forehands long to end the set.

"He defended when he had to," Dimitrov said. "But if you think about it, I did a lot of unforced errors."

What mattered in the end, of course, was who won, something that has not always seemed to matter to Monfils.

"For me, tennis is a sport, you know," he said. "It's not a job, you know. It's a sport."

NFL suspends Irsay 6 games, fines him $500,000

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (AP)—The NFL suspended Jim Irsay for the first six games of the season and fined him $500,000 for violating its personal conduct policy, coming down hard on the Indianapolis Colts owner Tuesday just hours after he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor stemming from an embarrassing March traffic stop.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said Irsay is barred from team facilities, practices and games and cannot represent the Colts at NFL meetings or events. The fine is the maximum allowed under league rules.

"I have stated on numerous occasions that owners, management personnel and coaches must be held to a higher standard than players," Goodell told Irsay in a letter released by the NFL. "We discussed this during our meeting and you expressed your support for that view, volunteering that owners should be held to the highest standard."

The 55-year-old Irsay pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of driving while intoxicated and acknowledged during his appearance before a Hamilton County judge that he was under the influence of the painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone when he was arrested March 16 near his home in the Indianapolis suburb of Carmel.

Irsay did not comment outside the courtroom, but he apologized to Colts fans in a prepared statement.

"I am committed to do everything in my power to turn this whole experience into a positive event for myself, my family and the community," he said. "In retrospect, I now know that the incident opened my eyes to issues in my life that needed addressing and helped put me on the path to regain my health. I truly hope and pray that my episode will help in some small measure to diminish the stigma surrounding our country's terrible and deadly problem of addiction. It is a disease."

Irsay's case was closely watched around the NFL—not least among players—because there are few examples of the league punishing an owner like Irsay. Detroit Lions president Tom Lewand was suspended for 30 days and fined $100,000 in 2010 for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy following his guilty plea to driving while impaired. A player with a first-offense misdemeanor DUI would not be suspended and would be fined no more than $50,000 under terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the NFL Players Association.

Police said an officer spotted Irsay driving slowly, stopping in the roadway and failing to use a turn signal. Officers said he had trouble reciting the alphabet and failed field sobriety tests. Various prescription drugs were found in his vehicle, along with more than $29,000 in cash.

Irsay acknowledged in 2002 that he had become dependent on painkillers after several years of orthopedic operations but said he had overcome the problem.

Irsay will be on probation for a year and is prohibited from drinking or possessing alcohol during that time. He must submit to drug testing during his probation and successfully complete a substance abuse rehabilitation program. Less than 48 hours after his arrest, the Colts said Irsay had entered a treatment facility.

Irsay's driver's license also was suspended for one year by Judge J. Richard Campbell, who asked Irsay about his history of prescription drug troubles.

"Yes, I've had it in the past ... when I was dealing with the effects after having surgery," Irsay answered.

Andre Miksha, the Hamilton County chief deputy prosecutor, said Irsay's case wasn't handled differently than the roughly 1,100 other intoxicated driving cases the office handles each year. He said the "vast majority" of such cases end in plea agreements.

He also said the terms of Irsay's plea agreement are typical for a person who faced first-time driving while intoxicated charges in the county just north of Indianapolis.

Irsay had resumed his duties with the Colts at the NFL draft in May and even made an unsuccessful personal pitch to his fellow owners on behalf of Indianapolis' bid to host the 2018 Super Bowl.

Irsay became the Colts owner in 1997 after the death of his father, Robert Irsay, and a lengthy legal battle with his father's second wife. Forbes magazine has estimated Irsay's net worth at $1.6 billion.

He has helped build the Colts into a top NFL team over the past decade behind quarterback Peyton Manning, now with Denver, and was a key player in the drive to bring the Super Bowl to Indianapolis two years ago. He is working with some success to rebuild the team behind young quarterback Andrew Luck while coping with a divorce that follows a decade-long separation from his wife of 33 years.

Irsay told the judge he is still under the care of a doctor and an orthopedic specialist who prescribe medications for him. Under terms of his probation, Irsay must provide officials with all current medication prescriptions. The NFL said Irsay will be subject to ongoing treatment, counseling and testing as determined by doctors.

Irsay, who is active on social media, is also forbidden from discussing the Colts or NFL on his Twitter account.

Unbeaten US routs New Zealand 98-71 at worlds

AP
James Harden of the U.S dunks against New Zealand during the Group C Basketball World Cup match, in Bilbao northern Spain, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014.

BILBAO, Spain (AP)—American players paused from their warmups to stand and face their New Zealand opponents as they performed the haka, their traditional war dance challenge.

The U.S. response wasn't nearly as interesting. Just pound the ball inside and outmuscle an overmatched opponent.

Anthony Davis had 21 points and nine rebounds, Kenneth Faried added 15 and 11 boards and the U.S. remained unbeaten at the Basketball World Cup by beating winless New Zealand 98-71 on Tuesday.

James Harden scored 13 points for the Americans, who will play two more games in Bilbao before moving on to Barcelona for the round of 16. They face the Dominican Republic on Wednesday before wrapping up Group C play on Thursday against Ukraine.

"It was a good, solid performance," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I thought the intensity was excellent."

Two nights after having to rally from a halftime deficit and pull away in the fourth quarter for a 98-77 victory over Turkey, the U.S. led this one wire to wire. The game was close only for a little more than a quarter.

BJ Anthony scored 11 points for New Zealand, which fell to 0-3.

"It was pretty awesome getting to play against these guys. These are guys that we watch on TV all the time," veteran forward Casey Frank said. "To be able to get out there on the court against them and have a little bit of success offensively, obviously the result didn't go our way, was pretty awesome."

The Tall Blacks' best work was before the game with their haka. Krzyzewski said U.S. players were aware it would be part of the pregame and they lined up to face midcourt as the New Zealand players got into their formation.

"We actually were going to shake hands with them afterwards because we knew that that was a really neat thing to do and it's part of their tradition, and we admire that," Krzyzewski said.

Fans enjoyed it, then were largely quiet throughout the first half as the bigger U.S. team imposed its will, not needing the kind of highlight plays fans expect of the NBA stars.

But there was no shortage of energy from Faried, the Denver Nuggets forward who seems intent on raising his profile as a largely overlooked player in the league.

The Manimal came into the game shooting 14 of 17 in the tournament and then made all five shots in the first half while also grabbing six rebounds. He finished 7 of 9 from the field and is shooting 81 percent, Krzyzewski calling him the Americans' "biggest and best surprise."

"I'm just playing out there," Faried said. "I'm just having fun. I'm just playing my game, having fun, enjoying life."

He was just as active on defense, getting called for a third-quarter goaltend on a shot he blocked with such force that it landed behind the New Zealand bench.

Stephen Curry finished with 12 points for the U.S., getting his shot to fall after going just 4 of 17 through the first two games. Golden State Warriors backcourt mate Klay Thompson also scored 12 and Kyrie Irving had 10.

It was 27-20 after one quarter and the Americans were ahead by nine in the second before a 12-0 run, featuring seven points from Irving, made it 50-29 on Faried's follow shot with 4:14 left. The Americans got into transition during that flurry, but were often content in the first half to dump it inside, taking advantage of Davis and Faried's muscle in the middle.

Harden said the Americans are happy to ride their big men, rather than the recent LeBron James-Carmelo Anthony-Kevin Durant squads that made the wing scorers like himself the feature.

"We've got 12 guys that can score the basketball at any given moment," Harden said, "and tonight and every other night the focus is defense, and whoever scores the basketball, it's USA points."

Harden had a couple of baskets early in the third quarter—he and Davis both throwing down impressive dunks—and the Americans kept building the lead en route to their 57th straight victory.

Derrick Rose started for Irving in the second half, Krzyzewski saying he wanted to get the former NBA MVP more minutes with the starters as he returns from nearly two seasons out with knee operations. Rose shot just 1 of 6 but Krzyzewski praised his performance.

GROUP C

Ukraine 64, Turkey 58

Alexander Mishula scored 19 points and Igor Zaytsev added 12 for Ukraine (2-1) in a game that was close throughout. Omer Asik of the New Orleans Pelicans had 16 points and Emir Preldzic chipped in 14 for Turkey (1-2).

Dominican Republic 74, Finland 68

Elroy Vargas scored 18 points and Francisco Garcia of the Houston Rockets added 16, despite both appearing to suffer leg or ankle injuries in the final minutes, and the Dominican Republic (2-1) blew most of a big lead before holding on for its second straight victory. Petteri Koponen finished with 23 points for Finland (1-2), which was coming off its first victory ever in the World Cup.

GROUP D

Slovenia 89, South Korea 72

Goran Dragic shot 10 of 14 and the Phoenix Suns guard also had four assists for the Slovenians, who play Angola next before closing group play with Lithuania. Jonghyun Lee had 12 points for South Korea (0-3).

Australia 82, Lithuania 75

Joe Ingles scored 18 points and Aron Baynes, who played last season for the San Antonio Spurs, added 14 as Australia won its second straight since falling to Slovenia in its opener. Lithuania, which managed just eight points in the second quarter, got 21 points from Renaldas Seibutis.

Mexico 79, Angola 55

Gustavo Ayon, recovered from shoulder surgery that ended his season with the Atlanta Hawks, had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Mexico (1-2) in its first victory at this tournament since 1974. Yanick Moreira had 13 points for Angola (1-2).

8 PAIRS

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Yu and Lee escaping with a tough 22-20 victory on Court 1 to notch the second finals ticket in their division.

Over at Court 2, Oh and Pang secured the first finals seat after easing past Eric Pena and Alvin Alvarez, 21-13, 21-6. Pang and Oh will dispute the division championship against Lee and Yu this Saturday, while the pair of Pena and Alvarez will play in the battle for third place against the tandem of Macario and Edralin.

Lee and Yu also advanced to the semifinals of the men's A doubles, but failed to bag another finals slot. Glenn Bluutjens and Sam Jones foiled Lee and Yu's bid for a second finals appearance after posting a 23-21, 21-13 victory in the night cap on Court 3. The match against Bluutjens and Jones was Lee and Yu's third straight in the same day, as they earlier challenged Cris Hilario and Jerry Hibi in a knockout game for the last semis spot in the men's doubles A. Yu and Lee went on to eliminate Hilario and Hibi, 21-18, 21-20, to set up a semis date with the top-ranked Bluutjens and Jones.

Jones and Bluutjens will go for the division championship against Andreau Galvez and Edralin, who registered a contrasting win in the other Final Four game. Galvez and Edralin prevailed in the opening game against Macario and Jordan Pangilinan, 21-15, but were forced to play in a third match when the latter pair recovered in the second, 21-14. In the rubber match, Galvez and Edralin went back to business and took an emphatic 21-4 victory, to earn the right to challenge Bluutjens and Jones in the finals set for this Sunday.

In the women's doubles, Class B, it will be the pair of Loyda Ito and Shirley Kim versus the duo of Julie Lee and Rowena Sison. Ito and Kim barged into the finals after sweeping Dianne Francisco and Alma Ortega, 21-19, 21-16. Lee and Sison also dispatched their opponents after only two games, but both wins against Cheng Saturno and Lucelle Lampera were hard-earned, 22-20, 22-20.

In the women's C doubles, Vilma Reyes and Baby Banadera dominated Roxe Lazaro and Lani Santos, 21-16, 21-13, to clinch the first finals seat in the division. Nicole Malasarte and Patricia Abantao won the other finals berth after sweeping Emily Vargas and Judy Mendieta. The youthful tandem notched an easy victory in the opening game, 21-7, before sweating out a 26-24 triumph in the second.

Meanwhile, four singles semifinal games were also played last Saturday with Abantao, Lazaro, A.J. Ortega and Leo Su making it on the winners circle.

Abantao swept Gigi Zapanta in the women's C singles, 21-13, 21-15, to arrange a finals tiff against Lazaro, who also took only two games to boot out Reyes, 21-13, 21-17. Lazaro and Abantao's finals showdown is scheduled for this Saturday.

In the men's C singles, both semis matches were extended to three games. Ortega moved one win away from securing a finals ticket after a 21-17 win over Jeremy Montenejo, who denied the former an early entry to the finals with a 21-13 victory in the second game. In the deciding third game, Ortega regained his bearings to eke out a 21-17 win.

Su also had a good start in his semis duel against Panapa Peteru, bagging a 21-15 victory before the latter extended the Final Four collision with a 21-10 triumph in the second game. In the knockout match, Su grouped and worked out a 21-17 victory to claim the second and last finals berth in the men's C singles. Su and Ortega will go for all the marbles this Saturday.

More singles matches and the remaining doubles semis tiffs were played last Sunday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

PAC

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ing through the stepladder semifinals stage where they defeated Kmmwlth from San Diego.

Atmarao, with momentum on their side, drew first blood in the finals as it took advantage of PAC Chain's sluggish game for a 17-12 win.

PAC Chain, however, regained its bearings in the next game to complete a 14-12 decision to secure the crown.

San Diego's Kmmwlth finished third with Kimason from Portland placing fourth. Saipan-based Sufa took the Sportsmanship Award.

The Washington Hustlers' Philip Manalo ruled the Home Run Derby.

AZ Atmarao, meanwhile, thanked all local businesses and individuals who helped fund their trip to Oregon.

John Crisostomo, Wayne Techur, Craig Sanchez, Chris Palacios, DJ Geroge, Jesse Aguon, A.J. Taitano, Rick Day, Marc Flores, Smeddy Techur, Jonathon Techur, Jesse Villanueva, Jared Sablan, Tony Taisacan, Anthony Taisacan Jr., Kyle Taisacan, and Ray Saures played for AZ Atmarao.

Frank Crisostomo and John Salas were the player-coaches of the Sam Salas-managed squad.

WORLD

From Page 28

chipped in 14 and 10 markers, respectively.

Hussain paced Hyatt with 22 points with De Vero and Gino Libuw combining for 24 markers.

Saipan World Resort 70 – Vinas 24, Manglona 14, Lewis 10, Bernardo 7, Caruana 7, Danas 6, Valle 2.

Hyatt 64 – Hussain 22, De Vero 12, Libuw 12, Alipio 9, Vargas 6, Lim 3.

Scoring by quarters: 8-11, 19-28, 41-44, 70-64.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	80	57	.584	—
New York	70	66	.515	9½
Toronto	70	67	.511	10
Tampa Bay	67	72	.482	14
Boston	61	77	.442	19½

Central Division

Kansas City	76	61	.555	—
Detroit	76	62	.551	½
Cleveland	70	66	.515	5½
Chicago	63	75	.457	13½
Minnesota	60	78	.435	16½

West Division

Los Angeles	83	54	.606	—
Oakland	79	59	.572	4½
Seattle	74	63	.540	9
Houston	60	79	.432	24
Texas	53	85	.384	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	78	59	.569	—
Atlanta	72	67	.518	7
Miami	67	70	.489	11
New York	65	74	.468	14
Philadelphia	64	74	.464	14½

Central Division

St. Louis	75	63	.543	—
Milwaukee	73	65	.529	2
Pittsburgh	71	67	.514	4
Cincinnati	66	72	.478	9
Chicago	63	76	.453	12½

West Division

Los Angeles	78	61	.561	—
San Francisco	76	63	.547	2
San Diego	66	71	.482	11
Arizona	57	81	.413	20½
Colorado	55	84	.396	23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whispering Palms vs SIS in early rematch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last season's finalists Whispering Palms and Saipan International School Blue will have an early rematch as they collide in one of the three opening games in the 2014-2015 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Volleyball League on Sept. 9.

Whispering Palms and SIS Blue will meet at the former's home court in Navy Hill at 3:30pm to kick off the hostilities in the middle school volleyball competition. WPS is this season's defending champion, as it defeated SIS Blue in last year's finale, 25-23, 24-22, for its second straight championship. Joining WPS and SIS Blue in the battle for the middle school championship this season are SIS White, Seventh Day Adventist, Saipan Community School, Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, and Mariana Baptist Academy.

MBA made it to the semifinals last year, but lost to the eventual champion in the Final Four, while GCA also fell to SIS in the other semis pairing. The SIS Geckos and WPS Terns marched into the semifinals after eliminating Mt. Carmel and SDA, respectively, while MBA booted out SCS, and GCA knocked out SIS White.

Meanwhile, the two other opening games this season will take place at SDA's court in Chalan Kiya and Mt. Carmel's turf at Chalan Kanoa. The Knights will host the GCA Eagles with their match starting also at 3:30pm. Over at Chalan Kiya, SDA will challenge Saipan Community School in another 3:30pm match.

Two other teams, MBA and SIS White, will have their debut games next Thursday. MBA will head to Navy Hill to face Whispering Palms, while SIS White will take on host SDA. The two other matches in the Sept. 11 playdate will have SIS Blue squaring off against GCA at SIS court in As Lito and Saipan Community School hosting Mount Carmel School in its Susupe court.

The eight teams will play in a two-round robin regular season and playoff format will be determined at the conclusion of the elimination round. Each match will be played at 3:30pm with four games scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday and one match every Wednesday.

Meanwhile, COPSSA will still hold separate competitions for high school volleyball with SIS organizing the league. The Geckos' Mili Saiki said the schedule and other details of the high school volleyball league will be announced once the middle school season is completed. SIS are the defending champions of both the girls and boys divisions, winning over GCA and Mt. Carmel, respectively, in last year's title matches.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan International School's Luther Lizama receives a serve during their title game against Whispering Palms in the COPSSA middle school volleyball league last year at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Ice stays alive, 118-81

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Ice & Water kept its playoff hopes alive after dousing Blue Haus, 118-81, in the first game in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4 last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The win improved Saipan Ice's record to 2-6 and put the team in a tie at eighth to ninth place with Maplas. Blue Haus dropped to a 2-5 record and will battle Saipan Ice and Maplas for the last two playoff spots. Blue Haus will play its last game in the elimination round tomorrow night against Island Floral (3-4) and a win will give the team and Maplas the tickets to the playoffs, while Saipan Ice will be ousted. A Blue Haus loss will create a three-way tie for the last two playoff seats and a quotient system will be implemented to break the tie. The team with the lowest points will go to the exit door.

Saipan Ice remained in contention as it hammered Blue Haus right at the get-go, leading by 18 big points, 31-13. Derrick Rangamar led Saipan Ice's rousing start, drilling 18 points in the opening canto. He went on to finish with a season-high 42 points, as Saipan Ice kept pouring one basket after another en route to the lopsided victory.

With Rangamar burning the hoops and getting support from Jun Pena, Jack Lizama, and Dan Barcinas, Saipan Ice more than doubled Blue Haus' output by the end of the first half, 67-27. Pena backed up Rangamar with his 17 points, while Barcinas and Lizama chipped in 12 apiece. Dexter Mendiola was the third Saipan Ice player to finish in twin digits with 11.

Edwin Camacho and Ernie Moises paced Blue Haus with 15 points apiece.

In the second game, Hite Jinro also reached the century mark to rout Maplas, 104-84.

Hite Jinro finished the round-robin elimination with a 7-1 record to top the nine-team field, beating San Antonio in the tiebreak for first place. Hite Jinro handed San Antonio its lone loss in the elimination, while the former absorbed its only defeat at the hands of Saipan Ice. Both Hite and San Antonio are assured of automatic semis berths.

Hite Jinro opened an early double-digit spread in the first period, 26-12, and never looked back, withstanding Maplas' rally in the third period.

Maplas turned an 11-point halftime deficit, 36-47, to 8 at the end of the third, 62-70, but Hite opened the fourth with back-to-back triples from Chris Mizer and Zack Babauta to gain more cushion. Hite was never threatened from thereon to foil Maplas' bid to enter the playoff round, which will begin this Sunday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hite Jinro's Kevin De Leon goes up for a layup against Maplas' Emerson Claveria during the first quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

First Game

Saipan Ice 118 – Rangamar 42, Pena 17, Lizama 17, Barcinas 12, Mendiola 11, Standish 8.

Blue Haus 81 – E. Camacho 15, Moises 15, Talania 14, Barrios 9, Hernandez 7, B. Camacho 7, Santos 6.

Scoring by quarters: 31-13, 67-27, 96-58, 118-81.

Second Game

Hite Jinro 104 – Lampkin 16, De Leon 15, Mizer 14, Babauta 10, T. Montes 9, Camacho 9, Sison 9, Lauron 6, A. Montes 4, Paraiso 4.

Maplas 84 – Mendoza 26, Fernando 26, Berline 9, R. Usi 8, Cortexz 6, Odicta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-12, 47-36, 70-62, 104-84.

New MISO season kicks off on Sept. 10

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Seven teams are most likely to compete in the upcoming season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, which opens with the boys' volleyball tournament on Sept. 30.

The girls' basketball season starts on Oct. 1 with games to be played every Mondays and Wednesdays.

MISO director of operations Nick Gross said that they are expecting Kagman High School, Mt. Carmel School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Saipan International School, and Grace Christian Academy to join this year's competition.

"But we love to have other schools which are interested to join. We are planning to hold three games per night, every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:15pm. The season will stretch towards the end of November," said Gross.

"We're also hoping our neighbors to the south [schools from Tinian and Rota] will be able to join us in the tournament."

SIS is the reigning two-time defending champion where it beat GCA two years in a row.

The new MISO season will be divided into the varsity (from grades 9 to 12) and junior varsity (from grades 9 to 10) divisions.

A 12-player roster in the varsity and 15-player (junior varsity) rosters are eligible to play in the tournament. Deadline of registration is on Friday.

The mandatory technical meeting for coaches, managers, and officials is set next Thursday, Sept. 11, at 4:30pm at the MHS Gymnasium conference room. Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements is on Sept. 19.

A free physical exam will be held on Sept. 13 from 8am to 12 noon at the MHS Gym.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan International School Geckos, left, will be shooting for a third straight volleyball crown in the varsity division of the upcoming Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization season.

Following his own rules, Monfils into US Open QFs

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Saipan Ice stays alive, 118-81

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World Resort boots out reigning champs Hyatt

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

Dennis Vinas made six straight free throws to secure Saipan World Resort's thrilling come-from-behind 70-64 win over Hyatt Regency Saipan in Tuesday night's heart-pounding game in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Glbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hyatt's Jun Alipio was slapped with a technical foul after almost starting a fight following a hard foul on Vinas with less a minute to go in the contest. Cooler heads intervened to prevent the tightly fought match into turning to a virtual free-for-all.

World Resort thus sent defending champion Hyatt to an early vacation and will now face Pacific Islands Club in Thursday's 7:30pm first game. In the other match, Kanoa Resort will take on Fiesta Resort at 9:30pm.

The winners of both contests will further boost their chances of advancing into the semifinal round.

Vinas scored 6 of World Resort's 8 straight points early in the third quarter to move his team within 1 after trailing 19-28 at halftime.

But Hyatt countered with its own scoring spurt with Christian De Vero and Shaj Hussain combining for 9 consecutive markers for a 37-27 advantage.

Vinas, however, was a man on a mission and made 7 more points for World Resort in a 14-7 exchange to keep the game close, 41-44, entering the final quarter.

Vinas then led his team's strong finishing kick with World Resort outscoring Hyatt, 29-20, in the payoff period to complete the hard-earned win.

The do-it-all guard led World Resort's scoring with 24 points, while Eugene Manglona and John Lewis

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JON PEREZ
Saipan World Resort's Robert Vinas, right, and teammate Kelvin Bernardo (2) trap a Hyatt Regency Saipan player in their game in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

8 pairs march into finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley Kim leans back for a return, while teammate Loyda Ito looks on during their women's B doubles semis game against Dianne Francisco and Alma Ortega in the 2014 Shirley's Badminton Classic last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight teams locked up finals berths in the 2014 Shirley's Badminton Classic after winning their respective playoff games last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the men's B doubles, Young Son Yu and Jong Min Lee and Pastor Pang and Oh Im Bog took different routes to the finals. Yu and Lee needed three games to slip past Ezekiel Macario and Deether Edralin with the former pair drawing first blood, 21-12, but missing a sweep as the latter came back strong in the second game, 21-13. In the deciding third game, the protagonists went back and forth with

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PAC Chain rules Labor Day softball in Oregon

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13@gmail.com
REPORTER

PAC Chain bested 22 other teams to rule the 10th Annual Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Labor Day Tournament held during Labor Day weekend in Portland, Oregon.

PAC Chain went undefeated in the elimination round to clinch the first finals berth and the twice-to-beat advantage that goes with it.

Atmarao from Arizona earned the right to face PAC Chain in the title match after go-

See PAC on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Atmarao from Arizona pose for a group shot after finishing second in the 2014 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Labor Day softball tournament in Portland, Oregon.